Hafa Adai!

CUC gets free use of warehouse for storage. PAGE 2
Hawaii woman fell to ground bawling when found in forest. PAGE 9

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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Dead man found on Beach Rd.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police officers came upon an unconscious man along Beach Road last Tuesday who was later confirmed dead.

According to a Department of Public Safety statement, police came upon a male individual at about 10:53pm last Tuesday along Beach Road. He was lying on the ground and was not responding to the officers' questions.

Upon failing to rouse him, police later found out that the man had no pulse. He was immediately brought to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was pronounced dead.

As of 6:49pm yesterday, the cause of death has yet to be determined. Police have yet to identify the man.

The DPS statement said that police officers were doing routine patrol along Beach Road when they noticed an individual who seemed to be sleeping on the ground and not responding to the officers' questions.

The officers noticed that the individual did not look like he was breathing, so they made their way toward the victim while notifying DPS Dispatch of their location and to ask for medics.

After failing to get a re-

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CNMI-PH FRIENDSHIP MONTH
Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, third left, and honorary Philippine consul to the CNMI Eli Arago, fourth left, join officials and members of the Filipino community in yesterday's proclamation declaring the CNMI-Philippines Friendship Month.

JON PEREZ

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'DHS, USCIS can resolve issue'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The issue surrounding the more than 1,000 individuals under the categorical parole program and those holding employment authorization documents in the CNMI—who are at risk of losing their legal immigration status by June 29 this year—can be resolved either by law or administratively.

This was stressed by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios yesterday, soon after signing of the

See DHS on Page 4

PIC now 95-pct. restored

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club Saipan, one of the hotels on Saipan that sustained extensive damage from Super Typhoon Yutu, is about 95-percent restored now.

PIC general manager Gloria Cavanagh said that, seven months after Yutu, PIC is now 95-percent recovered and only a few minor repairs are left to be done.

Cavanagh is happy with the amount of progress that has already been made, considering that PIC was one of

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People who are diagnosed with cancer need the support of the community more than ever.

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ASIA
Traffic jams on Mount Everest likely contributed to the highest death toll in four years.

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LIFE & STYLE
Sports Illustrated magazine has been sold for $110 million.

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Local

CUC gets free use of warehouse for storage

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has acquired the free use of a warehouse in Lower Base where it plans to store $7 million worth of typhoon materials that are coming in and other equipment.

During a CUC board meeting last Friday, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho reported to the board that the facility, which has 35,000 square feet of space, is now available for CUC to store critical equipment and materials. He said the warehouse is being provided to CUC for free for the next five years.

Camacho said the building, which is owned by the government, is in good shape and is safe for storing materials.

Camacho

To prepare the warehouse for CUC, the Saipan Mayor's Office will be providing several loads of coral aggregate, while the Department of Public Works will help with its compactor.

Camacho thanked Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig for allowing CUC to use the warehouse for free for five years.

He did not mention which government agency used to occupy the warehouse but said that CUC has had limited warehouse capabilities for a few years now because of its expanding system.

With CUC's 24-hour water system and an expanding wastewater system throughout the island, along with typhoon materials worth $7 million that are arriving, CUC needs more storage space.

Camacho said he told the governor's office and Atalig about CUC's challenges in housing the materials. "We were allowed to take and utilize for five years, rent-free, the warehouse in Lower Base," he said, adding that CUC staff, particularly those at the division of personnel, have been cleaning the building.

Judge dismisses inmate's lawsuit

The federal court has dismissed an inmate's lawsuit against some former and current Department of Corrections officials who allegedly put him in solitary confinement and failed to provide him with adequate mental health treatment.

In an order Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Jerry Ray's lawsuit after the parties reached a settlement agreement.

Ray can no longer re-file the case.

Manglona instructed the court's clerk to close the case.

The CNMI government and some former and current DOC officials agreed to settle the lawsuit by paying Ray $500 in court costs and amending DOC's regulations on disciplinary sanctions and administrative segregation, among other terms.

The remaining defendants in this case are the CNMI government, former DOC commissioner Vincent S. Attao, DOC director Gregory Castro, and classification officer Cynthia B. Santos.

The court earlier dismissed the claims against three other DOC officials. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

30-plus companies take part in Labor's job fair

Residents and CNMI businesses representing industries such as hotel and hospitality, retail, manpower, and construction took part in a CNMI Department of Labor community outreach last May 21, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said the outreach was intended to update the business community and the public about the Labor Department's procedures, as well as address any questions that they may have regarding labor-related matters in the CNMI."

CNMI Department of Labor division directors covered a range of topics including the quarterly compliance documents, the posting of job vacancy announcements, the interim final rule from the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration onsite consultation program, the enforcement, compliance, and monitoring rule and regulations, and the Workforce Investment Agency.

Matthew Deleon Guerrero, president of Hive Analytics and chief administrator of the 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage

See JOB FAIR on Next Page

LSG Sky Chefs participates in the CNMI Department of Labor Job Fair last May 21, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and Hyatt Regency Saipan participate in the CNMI Department of Labor Job Fair last May 21, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.
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McDonald's Saipan participates in the CNMI Department of Labor Job Fair last May 21, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.
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Joeten Ent. Inc. participates in the CNMI Department of Labor Job Fair last May 21, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.
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Duty Free Saipan participates in the CNMI Department of Labor Job Fair last May 21, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.
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Matthew Deleon Guerrero, president of Hive Analytics and chief administrator of the 2019 CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey, was the guest speaker of the CNMI Department of Labor community outreach last May 21, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.
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Internet gaming bill hearings start

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The House Gaming Committee is set to begin the process of gathering the pulse of the community on an internet gaming bill with a public hearing on June 5 at 5:30pm at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill.

House Bill 21-31, the Internet Gaming Act of 2019, which was introduced by vice speaker Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), seeks to allow each senatorial district to establish and regulate internet gaming in their respective jurisdictions.

Gaming committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) is asking the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to provide written testimonies before the public hearing while any oral testimony may also be given on the same day.

The committee is encouraging the public to attend the public hearing or submit their written testimonies three days before June 5.

The committee had already recommended H.B. 21-31's passage in the House, based on its findings that internet gaming does not pose any risk to the community's welfare if properly regulated.

The bill was, however, sent back to the committee for more discussions and studies on its impact.

The Office of the Attorney General said the bill is also unclear on who or which agency would regulate internet gaming in the three senatorial districts.

Several House members, led by Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), echoed the OAG's concern.

In last month's House session, Yumul said the committee does not see any conflict as the bill would enhance the CNMI's gaming industry. He also affirmed that no public hearings were done before the committee completed its report to recommend the passage of H.B. 21-31.

"There will be a companion bill and that would allow us to do public hearings. Any concern that may be brought up can be discussed there. We are just allowing additional gaming enhancement in the CNMI that would benefit each senatorial district," said Yumul at the session.

Eucon garners top honors in statewide MathCourt

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Several students in a private school along Gualo Rai garnered several top honors in the statewide CNMI Mathcourt competition.

The Public School System's 2019 Mathcourt, held at Mount Carmel School last May 11, 2019, was filled with several Eucon International students getting top 10 honors.

The school notched a total of 16 wins, all coached by Bernadeth Satur and Nestor Tam.

"Eucon International School is very proud [to have] these individuals as [the school's trainers]," a statement from the school noted. "…They are the best in their respective specializations."

Fifth grade champion Nash Santos and 6th grade runner-up Vince Satur would be competing in the Elementary National Championship for mathleague.org in the Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Satur's fellow 6th grader, Samuel Wang, came in fourth and would also represent the CNMI as an alternate, while Santos' classmate, Alexandria Dysangco, placed fourth in the 5th grade.

Neil Santos represented Eucon in the third grade division and became champion, while schoolmate Athena Alcoy placed second in the second grade division. Noah Santos bagged the championship in both the K-1 division and the first-grade division, while Stacey Ramos was champion in the Kindergarten division.

Neil Santos and Athena Alcoy placed first and fourth place, respectively, in the grades 2-3 division of the competition while also coming in as champion in the 2-3 team division.

Nash Santos, Vince Satur, Samuel Wang, and Henry Xue collectively placed second in the grades 4-6 team division representing Eucon.

Time management training set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, together with Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions, will be hosting a training on time management as part of a series of trainings for 2019.

Participants will learn to establish goals and communicate effectively to meet deadlines, learn techniques to increase productivity, and to design a personal time management system that works best for themselves and for the team.

From managing emails to juggling time spent on multiple projects, this "Task & Time Management" training seminar will help attendees attain skills to balance, rethink, and reprioritize on a moment's notice.

This seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on June 26, from 9am to 12pm.

Registration fee is $50 per person for Chamber members and $55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included.

Reservations and advance payment are required as seating is limited. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

DEAD

From Page 1

sponse, one of the officers checked for a pulse and noticed the victim didn't have one. They immediately notified the CNMI DPS Central Office to send crime scene technicians, Criminal Investigative Bureau detectives, and medics to the scene.

Medics arrived at about 11:03pm and were briefed by the officers about what they had discovered. Shortly after, crime scene technicians and CIB detectives arrived to document and investigate further.

At about 11:18pm, the body of the victim was brought to CHC for further examination and was pronounced dead.

Two weeks ago, a man was found dead near Dandan Middle School. He reportedly died of natural causes.

Prior to that, two other lifeless bodies were found in Kagman and Chalan Kanoa earlier this year.

PIC

From Page 1

the hotels that was most heavily hit on Saipan during the typhoon, in addition to its sister resort, Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, which was also heavily damaged.

"We have everything up right now. We're about 95-percent recovered. There are still some issues with some leaks. I mean, we basically put this back together in two months or less than two months, so when it starts to rain, there are just leaks that you find," she said.

The only thing left to do, according to Cavanagh, is to install the tiles on the roof to ensure resiliency and to keep the rain out.

"This weekend was a little bit challenging for us. We found some old and new leaks and we're just going to go back and complete that. We're just going to put the tiles back on the roofs but that's a project that might be done partial and we'll probably start that if not the end of this year, then hopefully next year," she said.

Cavanagh said that hotel occupancy has been low, not just for PIC but for the entire island, but she expects that to pick up in the beginning of June.

"Occupancy for May was OK. It's not a banner month by any means but, as far as visitors coming back to the island [are concerned], we're not going to complain. It's going to take awhile before the CNMI fully recovers and get the numbers back, so we're OK. There're some weeks that are better than others [but] the beginning of June should be fantastic," she said.

Although the occupancy rate is still at the low-end since the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu, Cavanagh remains positive and believes that the island has come out smarter from the experience.

"It's going to be a challenge but, this time around, we're a little smarter, we're learning to save for the rainy day, and I'm actually very excited in working in an environment where the occupancy rate is not as high so when it does become high, we'll remember all the things we're doing right this time," she said.

DHS

From Page 1

NMI-Philippine Friendship Month proclamation at the Office of the Governor.

He pointed out that the issue can be addressed by either a law like H.R. 559, which Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced in U.S. Congress, or through an administrative action of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"Either pass the legislation or USCIS and DHS would be able to address the issue administratively. We're very hopeful," he said.

USCIS terminated the categorical parole program for certain individuals in the CNMI last Dec. 27. Individuals who are under the parole authority have until June 29, 2019—the end of the 180-day transitional window—to either depart the islands or obtain other legal status.

Soon after signing yesterday's proclamation highlighting the friendly ties between the CNMI and the Philippines, Palacios said that federal policies concerning immigration is one of the challenges that both the CNMI and the Filipino community in the Commonwealth face in their relationship. "We can overcome this and continue with this enduring relationship."

In a meeting with Sablan last Monday, the issue surrounding the categorical parole program was one of their topics.

"The humanitarian parole is a major issue right now, with some of these visas expiring. That was actually an issue that was also brought up in the 902 talks," Palacios said. "[Sablan] has a legislation in [the U.S.] Congress. He is hoping that things would begin to fall into place to address the issue before the June deadline. We are very hopeful that he is going to be able to do something in Congress."

Sablan's H.R. 559, or the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act, aims to save the immigration statuses of 1,038 individuals in the CNMI who hold humanitarian paroles and employment authorization documents. The bill is still awaiting further action in the House; it has been referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Those affected by the issue are immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent residents and their IRs, IRs of citizens of Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), and caregivers of CNMI residents.

According to Palacios, Sablan remains hopeful that things will move forward. "He [Sablan] is hoping that things would begin to fall into place to address the issue before the June deadline. We are very hopeful that he [Sablan] is going to be able to do something in the U.S. Congress. [H.R. 559] is still in the House; it might get out of the House pretty soon."

Palacios concedes that there is a possibility that H.R. 559 might not be able to make it to the U.S. Senate, "and he [Sablan] is hopeful that he may be able to address it administratively with DHS."

Palacios said that Sablan is doing his best to get something done in Washington, D.C. before the June deadline. "Of course, one of the glitches that he pointed out to me is immigration packets that the White House is going to roll out soon. He insisted that he will continue to work on this. He is actually on his way back to D.C. with Congress going back in session, where he would work on some pressing issues—to get some results before the end of June."

Eli Arago, the honorary consul of the Philippines in the CNMI, who has been in the CNMI for almost 34 years, thanked Palacios for the update. "I know there are a lot who are worried about their status. Hopefully, before the expiration, something will be done, because a lot of them have been here for so long."

In related news, lawyer Samuel Mok advised that he does not represent Itos Feliciano or any group of foreign workers. Feliciano, a foreign worker advocate, said in a Facebook post that he had sought the assistance of Mok and he is collecting $100 each in order to pay the lawyer's retainer.

JOB FAIR

From Page 3

Survey, was the guest speaker.

He gave an overview of the survey, and informed businesses that a second round of the PWS began on May 9 and ended on May 17, 2019.

The DOL Job Fair was held the next day on May 22, with more than 30 companies participating and nearly 200 job applicants in attendance.

"We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the DOL job fair each year. As we are actively recruiting, this collaboration is a good chance for us to showcase who we are as a company and to be able to speak directly to interested individuals," said Amanda Ramon, senior human resources specialist at DFS Saipan.

"More candidates showed up today, and also recommended that the job fair should be done more than once a year. It can be held prior to the end of the school year for students who are graduating and staying back," said Denise Montenegro, Hyatt Regency Saipan's training manager. ***(Office of the Governor)***

‘Cancer patients need the community’s support’

JON PEREZ

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios joins some of the cancer survivors for a group photo after signing a proclamation declaring May 25 to 31 as CNMI Cancer Survivors Week and June 2 as National Cancer Survivors Day.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

People who are diagnosed with cancer need the support of the community more than ever as they battle the dreaded disease, according to former lawmaker Cinta Kaipat, who was diagnosed with endometrial cancer in 2011 a type of cancer that affects the uterus.

Her cancer is now in remission, making her one of over 300 cancer survivors in the Commonwealth who will be joining the observance of CNMI Cancer Survivors Week (from May 25 to 31) and the National Cancer Survivors Day on June 2.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed last Tuesday a proclamation to celebrate the lives of cancer survivors and of those who are still in the midst of their struggles.

At the proclamation signing, Kaipat stressed that remaining positive and upbeat in dealing with the disease is important.

“The mind affects the rest of the body. Keep a positive attitude. Surround yourself with positive people and you need to have a stress-free environment. Cancer is very stressful and it is critical that you maintain a positive mindset.”

“You have control over your environment. So, eliminate toxic people from your life and stay surrounded by people who will support you. I am grateful for the support that my family got from the community, the Commonwealth Cancer Association, and everyone who volunteered. I will be forever grateful for that more than I could express.”

Kaipat went through three months of daily radiation and she is now in remission. She advises cancer patients to look for something that works for them. “You have to consider that, when you have cancer, what works for you doesn’t necessarily mean it would work for everyone. There’s no cookie-cutter way to get treatment and all that kind of stuff, so you have to find what works for you—your own individual level of comfort and treatment that is good for you. Not everything that works for someone will apply to you.

“I thank everyone in the community—from the hard-working volunteers, the magnificent sponsors, to the staff and entire CCA board that help lead the way for all the cancer patients and their families.”

June is NMI-PH Friendship Month

In recognition of a shared heritage and similar customs, traditions, and values, the Commonwealth government declared yesterday the month of June as NMI-Philippines Friendship Month, with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios inking the proclamation at the Governor’s Office conference room.

The proclamation signing was witnessed by honorary Philippine consul to the NMI Glicerio “Eli” Arago and prominent members of the Filipino community in the CNMI.

“This is important to us because the CNMI is like home to Filipinos,” Arago said later in an interview. Arago noted that both the CNMI and the Philippines share similar histories, beliefs, and traditions. “Our relationship [with the CNMI] goes way back in the 15th century during the Spanish colonization.”

Arago noted that there are about 18,000 Filipino nationals in the CNMI, representing almost 35 percent of the CNMI population.

“There were a lot of [marriages] that are not included in that statistic, so there are [possibly] a lot more,” he said, adding that the numbers were based on the most recent census.

Separately, Palacios said the Filipino community has contributed many decades to the betterment of the Commonwealth, “so we need to recognize that and give a mutual respect to them in every opportunity we can.” ***(Erwin Encinares)***

IPI banking on tax credits

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LCC said it will continue to withhold further tax payments to the government, relying on tax credits it reportedly earned in previous years.

Brown

"We were advised by our…accountant that we are entitled to tax credits. It's the same thing like your personal tax wherein if you pay too much you get a refund," IPI chief executive officer Mark Brown told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview soon after last week's meeting of the Commonwealth Casino Commission.

Brown conceded that the CNMI needs money, the Torres administration is doing its most to keep the government afloat, and Finance Secretary David Atalig has a job to do "but our accountants and tax lawyers say we paid too much."

In a meeting with the CNMI House Ways and means Committee last month, Department of Finance officials led by Ryan Camacho disclosed that IPI has so far remitted only $41,000 in casino gross revenue tax from October 2018 to April 23, 2019.

The amount is a just drop compared to IPI's CGRT payments of $40.9 million in 2016, $67.7 million in 2017, and $43.6 million in 2018.

Brown said that IPI is trying to make everything work as planned. He said he "gets it" when some people ask, 'Why does IPI deserve that?' He pointed out, though, that events in the past two years have worked against IPI's plans on Saipan.

"We have a half-built building, we are not paying our taxes, we are having all these troubles of getting construction workers," he said. "…But everyone [should] understand that…we would not be in this situation" if IPI had gotten the Marpi land two years ago, "if we didn't have all the issues with typhoons, construction workers, H-2Bs, and 700 workers that we had to send home."

Ultimately, when it comes to tax payments, Brown said the goal is to apply tax credits first. "…Then we will go back to continue paying what's due," he added.

Despite the many obstacles, Brown said the majority of IPI shareholders still think that investing in a casino on Saipan is still worth it.

"My boss thinks anybody else would have ran for their lives and left but not us. … He definitely wants to finish [the] Garapan [site] and move forward with his plans. …He can't leave now [because] he is in too deep."

"We are still here, finishing the building and we are still getting investors—800 of them at a time—and promoting Saipan in Korea and Australia. …It's a struggle because we have a lot of people against us but we are still here and we plan to see this through," he added.

Alleged overstaying tourist with fake license is charged

The U.S. government charged yesterday a female cab driver who is an alleged overstaying tourist for using a fake CNMI driver's license.

Chunqiao Chen was charged with conspiracy to unlawfully produce an identification document.

In the information filed in federal court, assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe alleged that Chen committed the offense between May 2 and May 16, 2019.

He said Chen conspired with another person to come up with the fake driver's license.

Homeland Security Investigations officers arrested Chen two week ago on Saipan after she presented a fake driver's license.

HSI task force officer Jesse Dubrall allegedly encountered Chen last May 16 and recognized her as the one from whom he had seized an expired Saipan driver's license last May 2.

When Dubrall asked Chen why she was driving again when he had previously advised her that she could not legally drive on Saipan, she allegedly presented Dubrall with another driver's license.

After checking with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Dubrall determined that the Saipan driver's license was fake.

Chen was then arrested after HSI filed a complaint against her. Chen allegedly entered the CNMI as a tourist and is already overstaying. She was later allowed to post bail and release to a third-party custodian. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Court grants partial judgment in favor of FISG

Editor's Note: The following article is being republished to correct that it was Financial and Insurance Services Group, Inc. that is suing Albert R. Moolang and not Express Financial.

The Superior Court granted last week a partial default judgment in the sum of $1,068.43 in favor of Financial and Insurance Services Group, Inc. following a lawsuit filed against Albert R. Moolang.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho granted partially and denied partially the requested fees in the lawsuit filed by FISG against Moolang.

The lawsuit was filed with the Superior Court in March.

Moolang failed to appear before the court to plead or defend himself so the court entered a default judgement in favor of FISG.

According to the order, the court granted FISG's requests for the principal sum due of $843.43 and the filing cost of $225. The court also granted post-judgement interest of 9 percent per annum.

However, the court denied FISG's request for late fees worth $50, attorneys fees, and also denied the request for pre-judgement interest of 24 percent per annum worth $89.84.

The court found that Moolang did breach his contract with FISG because he failed to pay off his loan of $4,004.45 that he borrowed back in 2015. The principal amount still remaining was $843.43, that the court granted a judgement for in favor of FISG.

The court, however had to deny some of FISG's other requests because the evidence provided was not sufficient to warrant judgment in their favor.

Saipan Tribune erroneously reported in a previous article that Express Financial filed the lawsuit against Moolang, but it was actually Financial and Insurance Services Group, Inc. that filed the complaint. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SESAP meeting today cancelled

This is to inform everyone that the special meeting of the Special Education State Advisory Panel that is scheduled for today, May 30, 2019, has been postponed for a later date. New dates will be announced later. ***(PR)***

Weightlifting competition on June 15

The 2019 CNMI Weightlifting Championship will be held on June 15, 2019, a Saturday, at the Roundhouse, Garapan Central Park, starting at 10am.

Registration deadline is noon of June 8, 2019. Entry fee is $10, while the admission fee is $5.

There will also be a competitors' meeting at noon, Saturday, June 8, 2019, at the NMPASI conference room in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

For more information, contact John Davis at 789-9211, Greg Borja at 787-6642, or Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807. ***(PR)***

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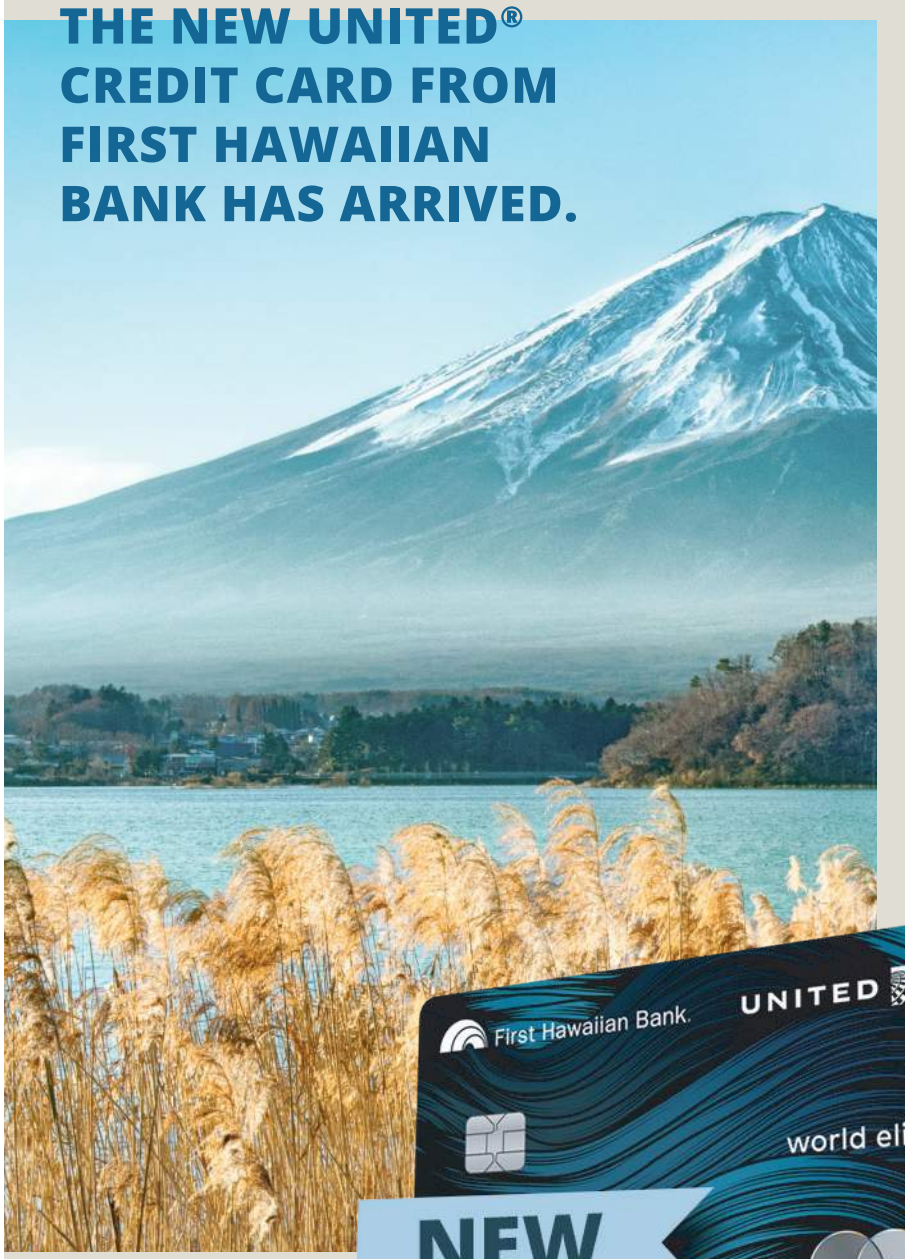

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Marianas guide list now online

The names of over 170 tour guides and tour operators under the Marianas Visitors Authority's Tour Guide Certification Program, also known as Official Marianas Guides, are now available to visitors and the public.

A list of Official Marianas Guides has been published on the official MVA website at www.mymarianas.com, making it easier for visitors and residents to identify legitimate tour guides, who must also wear their certification badge while working.

"Names of those who have given their consent are published on our website, but I encourage the public and all concerned government agencies to take a look," said MVA Tour Guide Certification manager Kuen-Hee Han.

In all, 270 Official Marianas Guides have been certified under the program.

To be certified, tour operators and tourist land/sea transport operators must attend 20 hours of class instruction at Northern Marianas College and provide:

1) proof that the applicants maintain an office within the CNMI;

2) a certification that the applicant does not employ any tour guides that are not certified pursuant to the regulations;

3) proof that the applicant maintains a bank account in the CNMI under the business' name;

4) the applicant's business license;

5) the name of an employee or a retained independent contractor who is fluent in the English language; and

6) proof that the applicant is a member in good standing with the MVA.

NMC classes include CNMI history, CNMI geography, CNMI rules and regulations, principles of tour guiding/tour operations, tour guide customer service, tour guide safety & security, protecting the environment, and CNMI culture and legends.

The MVA Tour Guide Certification Program was awarded the 2018 PATA Gold Award by the Pacific Asia Travel Association under the category of Education and Training, competing with 200 entries from 87 organizations and individuals worldwide.

For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com or contact Han at khan@mymarianas.com or 1 (670) 664.3200/1. ***(PR)***

Tinian JROTC takes part in Memorial Day rites

Cadets of the Stallion Battalion of the Tinian Junior/Senior High School take part in the island's observance of Memorial Day last Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Stallion Battalion of the Tinian Junior/Senior High School took part in the island's observance of Memorial Day last Monday, joining ranking island officials in the afternoon at Tinian's Veterans Memorial Park.

Leading the ceremony was Jovita San Nicolas Paulino.

The Stallion Battalion's color guard team—which consisted of cadet Staff Sgt. Angel Lagunay (commander), cadet Staff Sgt. William Tudela, cadet Cpl. Emiliana King, and cadet Sgt. Cielo Long—led the posting of colors to kick off the commemoration.

Both the U.S. and CNMI anthems were sung by cadet Cpl. Karen Lagunay, while Fr. Rey D. Rosal gave the invocation.

Tania Marie Mendiola from the CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office welcomed guests to the ceremony, while Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan gave special remarks.

A highlight of the event was a simple roll call for fallen servicemembers with roots on Tinian. That included PO2 James Michael Wedding (U.S. Navy), Ameko Pato (U.S. Army), Cpl. Frederico V. Dela Cruz (U.S. Army), Staff Sgt. Julian Francis A. Manglona (U.S. Army), Specialist Hanson Mendiola (U.S. Army), Private First Class Victor M. Fontanilla (U.S. Army), Seaman Apprentice AnaMarie San Nicolas Camacho (U.S. Navy), Specialist Johnny Jesus R. Tumed (U.S. Army), Vicente Atalig (U.S. Army), Norman Palacios (U.S. Army), Juan O. Kiyoshi (U.S. Army), Sgt. Nazario San Nicolas Borja (U.S. Army), Lawrence H. Brewster (U.S. Navy), Manuel P. Quitugua (U.S. Air Force), Master Sgt. Russell Alvin Long (U.S. Air Force), and William Safer (U.S. Army).

Wreaths were laid at the cemetery, a moment of silence was observed, and taps was played.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) gave concluding remarks.

Food and refreshments were later provided to the audience. ***(PR)***

Cadets of the Stallion Battalion perform several duties at the island's observance of Memorial Day last Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PATA Micronesia meets in the Marshall Islands

KOROR, Palau—The 1st Tri-annual Meeting of the Pacific Asia Travel Association-Micronesia Chapter was held on April 2-4, 2019, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, marking the beginning of the chapter's 33rd year.

Dozens of members representing national and state tourism offices of Micronesia, representatives of travel trade and other businesses, elected officials, and private individuals attended the meeting, held in Majuro atoll and Eneko Island.

"What an incredible week we had in Majuro," said PATA Micronesia chair Stephanie Nakamura.

With over 80 attendees, Nakamura said this was one of the Chapter's largest meetings.

She encouraged other PATA Micronesia Chapter members to join the association's next meeting in July or August of this year.

She acknowledged the assistance of Air Nauru, a new member of PATA Micronesia, for hosting receptions for the attendees, "welcoming us with their warm hospitality and making our stay a memorable one."

Committee meetings were held at the Marshall Islands Resort in Majuro atoll on the first day of meeting.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia chapter holds of their tri-annual meeting at Eneko Island in Majuro, Marshall Islands on AprIL 3, 2019.

Education Committee chair Denise Mendiola reported on training conducted throughout the region in 2018, including hospitality industry customer service and CPR, first aid, and automated external defibrillator training.

The chapter is accepting training requests for 2019, which will be held in partnership with the Small Business Development Center, United Airlines, and respective island territory tourism offices and other partners.

Marketing Committee chair Laurie DeBrum reported on upcoming events where the islands will be collectively marketed as a Micronesian region, including PATA Travel Mart, Asia Dive Expo 2019, Divers Equipment Marketing Association 2019, Scuba Show 2019, and others.

Cultural, Heritage & Environment chair Rita Nauta emphasized the shared heritage of celestial navigation throughout the region.

Membership Committee chair Lou Aguon-Schulte highlighted the convenience of the new online membership application and payment.

The PATA Micronesia general membership meeting was held on April 3 on the neighboring island of Eneko, where bungalows, a cookhouse, and white sand beaches welcome visitors.

Each of the national and state tourism officers reported on the status of visitor arrivals, upcoming events for tourists, upcoming marketing event, and other news.

On the final day, participants had the option to visit Mili Atoll, where some theorize that aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan may have landed in 1937.

PATA is a membership association of the Asia Pacific travel and tourism industry.

The Micronesia Chapter consists of members from the Micronesia region in the tourism industry, including national and state tourism offices. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 13, 2019
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe
Tel. 670-234-9661, Fax 234-9666
www.zoning.gov.mp

Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., Secretary
Mariano Taitano, Treasurer
Patrick Reyes, Member
Ignacio DLG. Demapan, Member
Francisco C. Aguon, Member
Tatiana Babauta, Member

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 05/29/2019 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. Rezone Application #2018-4299: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is requesting to rezone Lot No. 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district for warehousing and fabrication of materials for construction projects. This lot is located along Attilong Lane, east of Saipan Health Clinic and Green Meadows School.

2. Conditional Use Application #2019-2070: ITS Corporation is proposing to construct two (2) two-storey structures to operate a tire shop. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract 22703-8 in Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

3. Conditional Use Application #2019-2230: American Huasheng Trade Corporation is proposing to occupy an existing 2-storey single family dwelling with (6) six bedroom units to operate a bed & breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 016 K 44 along Tasi Drive in DanDan. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

C. Communication

D. Old Business
1. Update on Public Nuisance & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2018

E. New Business
1. Board Decision on the ATV, UTV, and Motorcycle Regulation
2. Board Decision on Text & Map Amendments to 2013 Saipan Zoning Law
3. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., Acting, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

American Huasheng Trade Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. American Huasheng Trade Corporation is proposing to occupy an existing 2-storey single family dwelling with (6) six bedroom units to operate a bed & breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 016 K 44 along Tasi Drive in DanDan. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, June 12, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., Acting Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

ITS Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. ITS Corporation is proposing to construct two (2) two-storey structures to operate a tire shop. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract 22703-8 in Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019
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For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., Acting Chairman

Grammy award winner's drug possession case in Guam closed

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A drug possession case in Guam involving a Grammy Award-winning singer has been closed.

The Pacific Daily News reported Monday that a superior court judge in Hagatna ordered the case against Yvonne Elliman-Alexander and her husband, Allen Alexander, to be closed after they completed all requirements of their sentence.

Elliman-Alexander won a 1978 Grammy for "If I Can't Have You" on the "Saturday Night Fever" soundtrack.

Court records say the couple was charged with drug possession by airport authorities when they arrived in Guam for a 2017 benefit concert.

Authorities say the couple had 3.3 grams of suspected marijuana, 3.5 grams of crystal-like rocks, a straw of suspected methamphetamine, and paraphernalia.

Officials say the couple was allowed to complete drug court sessions in Hawaii while caring for Elliman-Alexander's mother there.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Corporation is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, June 12, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., Acting Chairman

Hawaii woman fell to ground bawling when found in forest

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaii woman said Tuesday she fell to the ground and started bawling when a rescue helicopter spotted her in a forest where she had survived for two weeks by eating plants and drinking stream water.

Amanda Eller said crews in other helicopters failed to see her earlier in her ordeal.

"I knew in the grand scheme of things, I'm on this tiny piece of rock on the top of a waterfall, and how the heck are they going to find me?" Eller said at a news conference livestreamed from Maui. "It was a miracle."

The same group of volunteers who found her on Friday were helping search another forest for a Maui man, Noah Mina, who has been missing since May 20.

Eller had set out May 8 for a 3-mile (5-kilometer) hike in Makawao Forest Reserve. She didn't take a cellphone and didn't have a compass.

The physical therapist said her heart was telling her which way to turn. But when she tried to go back the way she came, that path didn't lead to her car.

Eller said she's normally an "overpreparer" and has food, water, sunscreen and a hat with her.

"Just that day I did not," she said, conceding she should have taken a cellphone.

Her darkest moment came on her 14th day in the forest when helicopters passed over and failed to see her yet again.

"You lose hope," Eller said. "Your hope meter starts to decline a little bit. And as the sun starts to go down you think, 'OK. Another night alone, how am I going to stay warm, how am I going to stay alive?'"

Still, she said she never felt alone or fearful. She thought of her family and chose to live.

She told herself: "You can sit on that rock and you can die. You can say mercy and feel pitiful for yourself and you can play victim. Or you can start walking down that waterfall and choose life."

Eller said a prayer for Mina, who went missing on a ridge trail near Wailuku. Eller said the area was "gnarly" and scarier than the spot where she was. She called the search for her "training" for the latest effort.

"I send all of my love and all of my support to his family and friends and his search teams," she said.

Mina's father, Vincent Mina, told The Maui News that first responders found his son's flip flops about 2,500 feet (762 meters) above sea level. They located footprints but weren't sure if they were Mina's.

Vincent Mina said Chris Berquist and Javier Cantellops, the arborist and Army Ranger who led the two-week search for Eller, met with Mina's family and were taken by helicopter Sunday to the area where he was last seen.

Eller said she's eager to get back to work and take care of her physical therapy patients. She said she has some ankle wounds and her knee hurts, but expects to be off crutches in about a month.

"I'm so grateful to be alive. I wake up in the morning and I'm like, 'Oh my God, I had a warm bed that I got to sleep in. And my body got to rest and to heal. My ankles are getting stronger.' Grateful for every breath. Grateful for everything. And I hope I never lose that," Eller said.

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Timberline Pro representatives John Gockel and Alex Rodriguez train Safety 1st Systems CNMI manager Emi Agulto and personnel on Timberline shoe product lines and sales points. Safety 1st Systems CNMI is the exclusive distributor for the Timberline Pro safety shoe product line, and carries also KEEN, Red Wing and other top brand safety footwear. Watch soon for new arrivals of Timberline and other suppliers in more economical lines.

Safety 1st Systems CNMI personnel receive training on newly installed hydrostatic testing system equipment. Conducting the training is Dave Sellers, Safety 1st Guam's manager. Larry Mettao receives training, while fire systems consultant Eric Macduff oversees. Safety 1st Systems CNMI is Saipan's only private full service fire safety store with the newest Getz equipment available.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Publish and perish: The dangerous new Assange indictment

We have no sympathy for Julian Assange, who released emails hacked by Russian intelligence to disrupt the 2016 election. We hope he is punished for crimes he is accused of committing in 2010, when the government says he worked with Bradley (now Chelsea) Manning to hack the Defense Department's computer network.

Those who steal sensitive documents must feel the consequences.

But in its superseding indictment against Assange filed Thursday, the Department of Justice went further than accusing the WikiLeaks founder of participating in the theft of government secrets. Other felony counts would throw him in jail under the Espionage Act of 1917 for inviting, then posting, classified documents illegally obtained by someone else.

This unprecedented interpretation of the overbroad law could make suspects out of all manner of reporters and editors working closely with sources to encourage them to get, and then making public, classified materials.

That's not going to happen, promises the government, because, as assistant attorney general John Demers put it, "Julian Assange is no journalist." Under this theory, "the totality of his conduct" reveals that he was motivated by the desire to expose and hurt Americans, therefore all his disclosures—of State Department cables, of rules of engagement in Iraq, of assessment briefs of Guantanamo Bay detainees—become criminal.

But as the First Amendment and case law establish, the government does not have the authority to determine who deserves constitutional protections. Moreover, any attempt to define who qualifies as a journalist is folly in a world where activists regularly look to acquire and expose information from whistleblowers, and where billions publish on Twitter and Facebook.

Punch-line: There's only one American politician in memory to ever actually encourage a criminal hack. That's the man who, in 2016, said "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing," who then repeatedly said he loved WikiLeaks, whose campaign promoted its data dumps, whose Justice Department now calls inviting and disclosing hacked materials a federal crime.

(c)2019 *New York Daily News*

How to deal with the American dictator

By ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune News Service

Robert Reich's latest book is The Common Good*, and his newest documentary is* Saving Capitalism.

Americans have sharply different views about what government should do, whether on abortion, guns, immigration or any number of hot-button issues. But we broadly agree about how government should go about resolving our differences.

This distinction—between what we disagree about and how we settle those disagreements—is crucial. As long as we continue to agree on the how, the processes and institutions of governance, we can accept what is decided even if we're unhappy about it.

To state it another way, Americans don't always like what government does, but they overwhelmingly support the American system of government. They want to improve it, not destroy it.

Enter Donald Trump, who has turned this how/what distinction on its head. In order to get what he wants, Trump rides roughshod over how we decide. He is the great destroyer, the American dictator.

His recent directive to his lapdog attorney general, William Barr, to find evidence of "treason" against specific people who investigated him—along with Barr's assertion of "no limit" on the president's authority to direct law enforcement investigations, including those he's personally interested in—threatens the neutrality of our entire system of justice.

Trump's blanket refusal to comply with House subpoenas and investigations flies in the face of how Congress is supposed to oversee the executive branch.

Trump's 2016 campaign aides' eagerness to get dirt on his opponent from Russia, and Trump's efforts to suppress evidence about those dealings, undermine how the American electoral system is supposed to run.

Trump's declaration of a national emergency to justify using funds to build his wall, which Congress refused to appropriate, obliterates how spending decisions are supposed to be made.

Trump's angry references to "Obama judges" who rule against him calls into question the independence and legitimacy of the judiciary.

Trump's hints at violence if he doesn't get his way (such as his March statement that "I have the support of the police, the support of the military, the support of the Bikers for Trump—I have the tough people, but they don't play it tough—until they go to a certain point, and then it would be very bad, very bad") threatens the democratic foundations of our society.

Taken as a whole, these attacks on our basic agreement about how to resolve our disagreements constitute the most profound challenge to our system of government since Richard Nixon went rogue.

Thankfully, most Americans oppose them.

Even with record-low unemployment, Trump's approval ratings remain in the cellar. Some 35 percent—Trump's hardcore base—continue to stick by him, but independents and even some Republicans are deserting him in droves.

Impeachment is the appropriate remedy for a president who acts like a dictator. But according to polls, most of the public opposes impeachment. I think this is because in these especially perilous times, impeachment threatens to pull the system further apart, possibly to the breaking point.

But if not impeachment, how else to deal with an American dictator?

The courts are stepping up.

Earlier this month, U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta ruled against Trump, saying "lawmakers should get documents they have subpoenaed."

Then, on May 22, a federal judge in Manhattan refused to block subpoenas from the House financial services and intelligence committees for Trump records from Deutsche Bank and Capital One.

On May 24, a federal judge in California granted a preliminary injunction blocking Trump's use of $1 billion from the Department of Defense for building his wall.

These decisions are significant not just because they are victories for House Democrats, but because they confirm that the American system of government is still working, Trump notwithstanding.

Trump may yet succeed in running out the clock—dragging out appeals through Election Day. But every court decision that adds legitimacy to the processes and institutions Trump has been attacking makes him look more like the dangerous dictator he is.

Americans want to preserve our agreement over how to resolve our disagreements. They're catching on to the threat Trump and the Republicans present to it.

The Democratic Party should dedicate itself to protecting that agreement. This is the hallmark of a true governing party.

Trump and the Republicans, by contrast, are digging themselves ever more deeply into a hole from which they may never emerge.

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China's power is booming. How should the US respond?

By IVO DAALDER
Chicago Tribune

Ivo Daalder is the president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to NATO.

The United States and China are becoming strategic rivals. The mounting trade war is but the most visible manifestation of this new reality. But the competition goes well beyond trade. It extends to political influence, military strength and even the information realm. At its core, it's an intensifying competition over who will shape the future.

For 75 years, American power and leadership has been the dominant feature of global politics. Emerging triumphant from World War II, Washington used its unquestioned power to forge a rules-based order that offered countries the prospect of security through alliances, prosperity through free trade, and freedom through democracy and the rule of law.

China is now challenging American leadership and the very rules-based order itself. That much became clear on a recent visit to Hawaii, home of the U.S. military's Indo-Pacific Command. In briefings and conversations with top military leaders, including the commander of U.S. forces, the challenge posed by China to the region was their singular preoccupation.

China's growing economic power is well known and understood. Through 40 years of extraordinary effort, China has become the second largest economy and will surpass the U.S. in a few years. Much of its growth was the product of internal effort. But all too much of it was the result of nefarious and predatory practices—stealing of blueprints and technology, large government subsidies to key industries and the closure of large parts of the Chinese market to foreign competition, even as Beijing enjoyed full access to U.S. and other markets.

As China grew richer, it bought power and influence in other realms. Over the past quarter century, China has expanded and modernized its military tenfold. It's deploying aircraft carriers as part of a growing blue water navy, fourth- and fifth-generation combat aircraft, and an extensive arsenal of missiles to attack on land, sea and air. It's rapidly increasing its presence in space and continually perfecting its cyber offensive capabilities.

China now has a military base in Djibouti, in Africa just across from the Arabian Peninsula. Its navy has sailed to the Baltic and Barents seas. And a string of artificial islands in the South China Sea, with airstrips and deep-water ports, provides it with an intimidating presence in a contested region through which more than $5 trillion worth of goods are shipped annually.

Beijing is also using its economic might to exert influence beyond its territory. It's "One Belt, One Road" initiative stretches through Southeast and South Asia on to Africa and Europe. China finances loans, provides plans and employs its own workers to build sea and air ports, rail and road links and other critical infrastructure throughout the world. Failure to repay loans in time can result in seizure of assets, as Beijing did with a port it built in Sri Lanka.

China has a large and growing diplomatic corps, and it's extending its presence in countries and international institutions throughout the world. Every time the United States steps back, be it at the United Nations or another place, China is ready to fill the void—with people, money and influence. The message is clear: China is a power to be reckoned with. And people are taking notice. As Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin said recently, "China's offer of a strategic partnership is a bit more attractive than the current offer of the U.S. of strategic confusion."

There is nothing unusual with what China is doing. It's acting like any great power would—using its economic and military prowess to extend its political influence to all corners of the globe. And quite naturally, it seeks that influence to serve its own interests and purposes.

How should the United States respond to this growing challenge? The military commanders I met at the Indo-Pacific Command had a clear, definitive answer: Bolster relations with our "allies, friends and partners." They emphasized that the United States could not, nor should, match China at every step. Instead, just as Beijing was exploiting its strengths, so should Washington. And America's strength lies in having the one thing China does not: allies, friends and partners.

Together with its key Asian allies (Japan, Australia, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand) and important friends and partners, including New Zealand, Indonesia and India, the United States retains formidable economic, political and military capability to counter China's encroachment and influence. American allies in Europe and North America also have an interest in limiting China's reach, and they can work with the United States to ensure western influence remains strong and unchallenged in the Asia Pacific and other critical areas around the globe.

America's rivalry with China is inevitable. But competition need not lead to confrontation. If America works together with its allies, friends and partners, it can continue to shape the international order to the benefit of all.

Now is not the time to leave Iraq

By TAMMY DUCKWORTH
Chicago Tribune

Tammy Duckworth is a U.S. senator from Illinois.

First, it was the familiar weight of my body armor. Then, as I approached the helicopter the feeling grew.

The growl of the engine, the smell of hydraulic fluid and JP-8 fuel, the communication traffic in my headset—it was as if I were no longer in 2019 but was back with my crew in 2004, in the thick of the war.

It had been 14 years, five months and 10 days since I'd last been in Iraq, since the afternoon when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded in the Black Hawk helicopter I was piloting, costing me my legs and nearly my life.

But for a split second those years were gone, and all I wanted was to climb into the cockpit, "strap the bird to my back" and lift up above the Baghdad skyline.

Reality seeped back in. It was late April, and I was returning to Iraq—to the very battlefield where I almost bled to death—no longer as a soldier but as a senator, leading a congressional delegation to receive operational and intelligence updates.

As the helicopter reached its flight profile, I reminded myself that even though I was no longer in the pilot's seat, it didn't mean the mission I began all those years ago was over.

I remember lying in my hospital bed at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in the months after I was shot down and seeing pictures of the first free elections in Iraq, in January 2005. I remember looking at photo after photo of men and women who'd stood in line for countless hours holding up their purple ink-stained fingers to prove they'd finally been allowed to make their voices heard.

They were strangers to me. Yet I took one look at them and tears filled my eyes—proud that I'd played even the smallest part in making that milestone possible. Right then, I promised myself that I'd find a way to keep serving however I could, vowing to repay the troops who had risked their lives to save me.

That's the memory I thought about as we lifted off in Baghdad and circled the dusty field where I'd lost my legs, and where we met with Iraqi leadership, Kurdish allies, American diplomats and our service members.

What I learned during that trip convinced me that the mission to keep Iraq independent is as urgent as ever—and that America's continued engagement is key.

It's key because, even while news of Iraq has fallen off of the front pages, Iraq's position remains precarious:

Its economy is flagging while its dependence on Iranian oil grows.

Its younger generation is struggling, with too few jobs for the 800,000 young people trying to enter its workforce every year.

Its military appears ill-equipped to sustain itself whenever the U.S. stops writing checks.

It remains dangerously vulnerable to a resurgent Islamic State, or ISIS, a group that's as insidious as ever.

ISIS may no longer control territory, but that doesn't make the group less lethal. It just means members are regrouping underground, rather than in the open.

Meanwhile, Iraq seems to lack a long-term plan to stop the group's rebirth. Case in point: Iraqi government officials told me they're considering isolating 30,000 ISIS-affiliated women and children in a camp in the middle of the desert.

How could that do anything but guarantee an ISIS resurgence? These are some of the group's most ardent supporters, and they'd be given the time and space to regroup, to let their grievances calcify and their dreams of a new caliphate grow—and to train today's children to become tomorrow's army.

I do not want a forever war. I don't want even one more American to have to shed a drop of blood on Iraqi soil.

But our nations' fates are entangled, and with the Trump administration now relentlessly, recklessly trying to bait Iran, the need to keep Iraq standing has become dire. A destabilized Iraq would be felt throughout the region and beyond, bolstering our adversaries in Tehran while threatening our allies and even our own homeland.

So we cannot afford to disengage from Baghdad, or abandon Fallujah, or forget about our Kurdish allies in Irbil.

We cannot conduct diplomacy via tweet or come to military decisions by virtue of temper tantrum, deciding to shuttle troops into war zones or pull personnel out of embassies just to appease the hawkish ideology of some in the Trump administration.

If we want to prevent ISIS from reclaiming its caliphate, if we want the fledgling democracy that thousands of us lost limbs or lives for to survive, if we want to ensure that we have one more partner in a region where enemies abound, then we need to stay engaged in a holistic, thoughtful way: diplomatically, militarily, economically and culturally.

That sensory overload I felt my first day back in Baghdad—hearing the snarl of the helicopter engine, seeing the whirl of sand in our aircraft's wake—just reminded me of the importance of what we're fighting for: our own nation's security.

All those sights, sounds and scents made me recommit to the promise I made myself in that hospital bed 14 years ago, vowing once again to do whatever I can to keep the U.S. the strongest it can be.

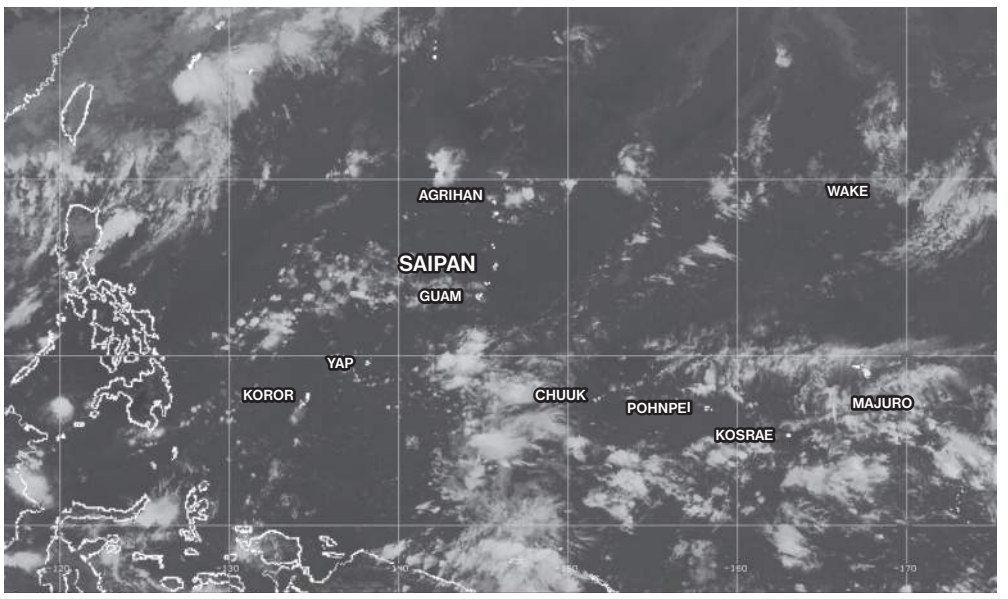
In this case, that means working with our allies and the Iraqi people to ensure Iraq remains independent and democratic. It's only by guaranteeing that future generations of Iraqis will also be able to walk out of voting booths, proudly holding up their ink-stained index fingers, that we can best protect America's interests in the Middle East and beyond.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 78°	88° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:51 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No large scale weather systems are expected to affect the Marianas through the forecast. Lingering moisture and instability will produce a chance of a few thunderstorms today. Moisture will decrease a little by tonight but this will be enough to end the threat of thunderstorms. Little will change through the coming weekend with only isolated showers expected the whole time. No large scale pressure differences are predicted through the forecast and this will keep winds between 10 to 15 mph through the weekend. The period of nice weather will unfortunately equal a dry period with rainfall totals of less than three quarters of an inch from now through Monday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Rain	61° / 50°
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 61°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°
Honolulu	Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 57°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 52°
Miami	Sunny	85° / 79°
New York	Thunderstorms	76° / 64°
Osaka	Cloudy	79° / 66°
Paris	Showers	70° / 55°
Busan	Cloudy	73° / 61°
Rome	Showers	72° / 54°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	93° / 70°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	79° / 55°
Tokyo	Cloudy	79° / 64°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	91° / 70°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:33 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.85
11:25 AM	LOW TIDE	0.48
5:20 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.49
10:58 PM	LOW TIDE	0.75

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:39 AM	3:01 PM	-
Friday	3:17 AM	3:51 PM	-
Saturday	3:56 AM	4:43 PM	-
Sunday	4:39 AM	5:37 PM	-
Monday	5:26 AM	6:34 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ62	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Huawei asks court to deem US security law unconstitutional

SHENZHEN, China (AP)—Chinese tech giant Huawei filed a motion in U.S. court Wednesday challenging the constitutionality of a law that limits its sales of telecom equipment, the latest action in an ongoing clash with the U.S. government.

Huawei's chief legal officer Song Liuping said at a press briefing that Huawei had filed a motion for summary judgment asking the court to rule on whether it is constitutional for the U.S. to implement a military spending provision that bars the government and its contractors from using Huawei equipment.

Huawei is the biggest global maker of network equipment, but it is now fighting to maintain access to major markets for next-generation communications as the U.S. claims the company threatens international cybersecurity.

AP

A man uses his smartphone outside of a shop selling Huawei products at a shopping mall in Beijing, Wednesday, May 29, 2019.

In March, Huawei launched its suit against the section of the U.S. national defense law in Plano, Texas, the headquarters of its U.S. operations. The complaint calls the U.S. provision a "bill of attainder," which selectively punishes Huawei and violates due process by presuming Huawei's guilt without a fair trial. The summary judgment motion seeks to accelerate the legal process to give U.S. customers access to Huawei equipment sooner, according to a Wednesday statement from Huawei.

Song said the "state-sanctioned campaign" against the company will not improve cybersecurity.

"Politicians in the U.S. are using the strength of an entire nation to come after a private company," he said. "This is not normal."

The U.S. and China are embroiled in a protracted trade dispute and tariff war that began last July following complaints from President Donald Trump that China steals from or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology while unfairly subsidizing Chinese businesses. The most recent round of negotiations earlier this month ended with no agreement, after Trump more than doubled duties on $200 billion in Chinese imports. China responded by raising tariffs of 5% to 25% on $60 billion worth of American goods.

Soon afterward, the U.S. Commerce Department placed Huawei on its "Entity List," effectively barring U.S. firms from selling its technology without government approval. Huawei relies heavily on U.S. components, including computer chips, and about one-third of its suppliers are American.

The move has already affected the company's U.S. partnerships. Google said it would continue to support existing Huawei smartphones, but future devices won't carry its flagship apps and services, including maps, Gmail and search—a change that will likely make Huawei phones less appealing.

Chinese tourism to US drops for 1st time in 15 years

After more than a decade of rapid growth, Chinese travel to the U.S. is falling. And that has cities, malls and other tourist spots scrambling to reverse the trend.

Travel from China to the U.S. fell 5.7% in 2018 to 2.9 million visitors, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office, which collects data from U.S. Customs forms. It was the first time since 2003 that Chinese travel to the U.S. slipped from the prior year.

Friction between the U.S. and China is one reason for the slowdown. The Trump administration first imposed tariffs on Chinese solar panels and washing machines in January 2018, and the trade war has escalated from there. The U.S. now has a 25% tariff on $200 billion worth of Chinese imports, while China has retaliated with tariffs on $60 billion of U.S. imports.

Last summer, China issued a travel warning for the U.S., telling its citizens to beware of shootings, robberies and high costs for medical care. The U.S. shot back with its own warning about travel to China.

Wang Haixia, who works at an international trade company in Beijing, traveled to the U.S. in May for her sister's graduation. She and her family planned to spend 10 days in Illinois and New York.

Wang says she might have stayed longer but doesn't want to contribute to the U.S. economy amid the trade war.

"I cannot cancel this trip because I promised my sister I would go to her commencement," she said. "My relatives will contribute more than 100,000 yuan to America just staying for 10 days, and that's enough."

There are other reasons behind the slowdown. Economic uncertainty in China has travelers at the lower end of the market vacationing closer to home, says Wolfgang Georg Arlt, director of the Chinese Outbound Tourism Research Institute, which found that 56% of travelers leaving China in the last three months of 2018 went to Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan compared with 50% in 2017. Those who do travel farther are seeking out more exotic destinations like Croatia, Morocco and Nepal.

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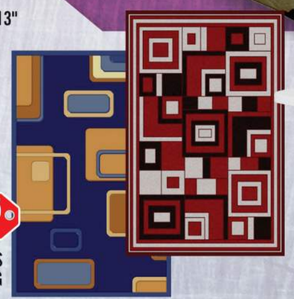

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Nation

More remains identified as US troops killed in Korean War

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (AP)—The U.S. military says it has identified the remains of three more Americans killed during the Korean War, even as efforts to recover additional remains have stalled amid souring relations with North Korea.

One family has been notified and notification of the other two families is pending, Lt. Col. Ken Hoffman, spokesman for the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency, said Tuesday.

One set of remains has been identified as those of Army Cpl. Charles S. Lawler, a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. The DPAA said in a statement that Lawler, whose hometown was not provided, had been engaged against enemy forces near Unsan, North Korea, and was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950.

So far, six Americans have been identified from 55 boxes of what North Korean officials said were remains. U.S. officials have estimated that between 50 and 100 individuals could likely be identified, with about 80 of them expected to be Americans and the others South Koreans fighting alongside U.S. forces.

Earlier this month, as tensions between the U.S. and North Korea spiked again, the Pentagon said it had suspended its efforts to arrange negotiations on recovering additional remains of American service members killed in the North during the Korean War.

The Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency said it has had no communication with North Korean authorities since the Hanoi summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last February. That meeting focused on the North's nuclear weapons and followed a June 2018 summit at which Kim committed to permitting a resumption of U.S. remains recovery, which had been suspended by the U.S. in 2005.

Since the February summit, however, the Trump administration has made no discernable progress toward a deal on eliminating the North's nuclear weapons. Although the remains recovery effort is technically separate from the nuclear talks, it appears to have become entangled in the broader disagreement between Washington and Pyongyang over nuclear weapons and other efforts to improve relations.

The DPAA said it had "reached the point where we can no longer effectively plan, coordinate, and conduct field operations in the DPRK" during this fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30. The North, it said, never agreed to face-to-face negotiations to work out details for the recovery operations, such as payments required for the provision of support services by the North Korean army.

Last summer, in line with the Trump-Kim summit in June, the North turned over 55 boxes of what it said were the remains of an undetermined number of U.S service members killed in the North during the 1950-53 war. At the time, John Byrd, director of the Defense Department laboratory responsible for the work, said the reports were being finalized before notification of the families was done.

In this Sept. 19, 2016, file photo shows sculptures by Frank Gaylord at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington. AP

After several quiet years, tornadoes erupt in United States

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—After several quiet years, tornadoes have erupted in the United States over the last two as a volatile mix of warm, moist air from the Southeast and persistent cold from the Rockies clashed and stalled over the Midwest.

On Monday, the U.S. tied its current record of 11 consecutive days with at least eight tornadoes on each of those days, said Patrick Marsh, warning coordination meteorologist for the federal Storm Prediction Center. The previous 11-day stretch of at least eight tornadoes per day ended on June 7, 1980.

"We're getting big counts on a lot of these days and that is certainly unusual," Marsh said.

The National Weather Service had already received more than a dozen reports of tornadoes Tuesday evening , suggesting that the record for consecutive days would be broken once the official totals are in.

The U.S. has experienced a lull in the number of tornadoes since 2012, with tornado counts tracking at or below average each year and meteorologists still working to figure out why.

"A lot of people are trying to answer that, but there's no definitive answer," Marsh said.

The recent surge in tornado activity over the past two weeks was driven by high pressure over the Southeast and an unusually cold trough over the Rockies that forced warm, moist air into the central U.S., sparking repeated severe thunderstorms and periodic tornadoes.

Scientists also say climate change is responsible for more intense and more frequent extreme weather such as storms, droughts, floods and fires, but without extensive study they cannot directly link a single weather event to the changing climate.

"Neither one of these large systems —the high over the Southeast or the trough over the Rockies— are showing signs of moving," Marsh said. "It's a little unusual for them to be so entrenched this late in the season."

Those conditions are ripe for the kind of tornadoes that have swept across the Midwest in the last two weeks, said Cathy Zapotocny, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Valley, Nebraska. Zapotocny said the unstable atmosphere helped fuel many of the severe winter storms and subsequent flooding that ravaged Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri earlier this year.

"We've been stuck in this pattern since February," she said.

Zapotocny said the number of tornadoes this year was "basically normal" until the surge this week. May is typically the month with the highest incidence of tornadoes, usually in the Plains and Midwestern states collectively known as Tornado Alley, where most of this year's twisters have hit.

The National Weather Service has received 934 tornado reports so far this year, up from the yearly average of 743 observed tornadoes. More than 500 of those reports came in the last 30 days. The actual number is likely lower, however, because some of the reports probably come from different witnesses who spot the same twister.

Most of the confirmed tornadoes were rated as less-intense EF0, EF1 and EF2s on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. But 23 were classified as EF3 tornadoes, with wind speeds of 136-165 mph. The strongest confirmed tornado this year was the EF4 tornado that killed 23 people in Alabama in March.

ACROSS THE NATION

Father of baby found dead in LA area sought in her death

BELLFLOWER, Calif. (AP)—The father of a baby girl found dead outside a Los Angeles-area mortuary is a person of interest in her death, authorities said. Officials are seeking Alexander Echeverria of South Sacramento after his daughter's body was found late Monday morning outside the Funeraria del Angel Bellflower Mortuary in suburban Bellflower. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department believes 8-month-old Alexia Rose Echeverria died in Sacramento. TV footage showed a memorial of flowers, balloons, candles and stuffed animals outside the Southern California mortuary for the baby, whose body was discovered in a car seat outside a trash container and partially covered by a blanket. The girl's mother, Karla Alvarado, told KOVR-TV that Echeverria had said he was going to pick up his brother in San Francisco. He later called Alvarado crying but didn't say anything else. Alvarado, who lives with Echeverria, said she demanded he come home with their daughter or she would call police. "She had just had just learned how to say, 'Mama.' She was already calling me mama. She was clapping for everything," Alvarado said.

Washington is latest state to sue over Trump health rule

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Washington is the latest state to sue President Donald Trump's administration in hopes of blocking a new rule that lets health care professionals refuse to provide abortions and other services that conflict with their moral or religious beliefs. Attorney General Bob Ferguson, a Democrat who has sued frequently and successfully over Trump's initiatives, filed the case Tuesday in federal court in Spokane. At least two dozen other states have also sued, along with several reproductive rights and gay rights organizations. Critics say the rule drastically expands the number of health providers who can refuse to provide services, including everyone from ambulance drivers to receptionists and customer service representatives at insurance companies. They say that could lead to discrimination in reproductive care, end-of-life decisions and care for transgender patients.

KOA fires white worker who pulled gun on black visitors

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A white manager of a Mississippi campground has been fired after video showed her holding a gun while telling an African American couple to leave because they did not have a reservation. Kampgrounds of America spokesman Mike Gast said Tuesday that the unidentified manager had been fired from the KOA in Starkville. A video posted Sunday to a Facebook page apparently belonging to Macon, Mississippi, resident Jessica Richardson shows a woman in a KOA shirt holding a gun as Richardson and her husband tell her they didn't know they needed a reservation. Richardson did not immediately respond to messages an Associated Press reporter left through Facebook and at the nail salon where she works. Gast says KOA "does not condone the use of a firearm in any manner" on its properties or franchises.

Asia

Deaths rise as Nepal issues more permits for Mount Everest

NAMCHE, Nepal (AP)—Scaling Mount Everest was a dream few realized before Nepal opened its side of the mountain to commercial climbing a half-century ago. This year the government issued a record number of permits, leading to traffic jams on the world's highest peak that likely contributed to the greatest death toll in four years.

As the allure of Everest grows, so have the crowds, with inexperienced climbers faltering on the narrow passageway to the peak and causing deadly delays, veteran climbers said.

After 11 people died this year, Nepal tourism officials have no intention of restricting the number of permits issued, instead encouraging even more tourists and climbers to come "for both pleasure and fame," said Mohan Krishna Sapkota, secretary at the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

Nepal, one of the world's poorest countries, relies on the climbing industry to bring in $300 million each year. It doesn't cap the number of permits it issues or control the pace or timing of the expeditions, leaving that to tour operators and guides who take advantage of brief clear weather conditions whenever they come, leading to pileups near the peak.

On May 22, a climber snapped a photo from a line with dozens of hikers in colorful winter gear that snaked into the sky.

Climbers were crammed crampon-to-crampon along a sharp-edged ridge above South Col, with a 7,000-foot (2,000-meter) drop on either side, all clipped onto a single line of rope, trudging toward the top of the world and risking death as each minute ticked by.

AP

In this photo made on May 22, 2019, a long queue of mountain climbers line a path on Mount Everest.

"There were more people on Everest than there should be," said Kul Bahadur Gurung, general secretary of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, an umbrella group of all expedition operators in Nepal. "We lack the rules and regulations that say how many people can actually go up and when."

The death toll this season is the highest since 2015. Most of those who died are believed to have suffered from altitude sickness, which is caused by low amounts of oxygen at high elevation and can cause headaches, vomiting, shortness of breath and mental confusion.

Once only accessible to well-heeled elite mountaineers, Nepal's booming climbing market has driven down the cost of an expedition, opening Everest up to hobbyists and adventure-seekers. Nepal requires climbers to have a doctors' note deeming them physically fit, but not to prove their stamina at such extreme heights.

Because of the altitude, climbers have just hours to reach the top before they are at risk of a pulmonary edema, when the lungs fill with liquid. From Camp Four at 8,000 meters (26,240 feet) to the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) peak, the final push on Everest is known as the "death zone."

The conditions are so intense at such times that when a person dies, no one can afford to expend energy on carrying the body down from the mountain.

"Every minute counts there," said Eric Murphy, a mountain guide from Bellingham, Washington, who climbed Everest for a third time on May 23. He said what should have taken 12 hours took 17 hours because of struggling climbers who were clearly exhausted but had no one to guide or help them.

Just a handful of inexperienced climbers, he said, is "enough to have a profound effect."

The deaths this year on Nepal's side of the mountain included Don Cash, a sales executive from Utah, and Christopher Kulish, an attorney from Colorado, who both died on their way down from the peak.

Kulish, 62, had just reached the top with a small group after crowds of climbers congested the peak last week, according to his brother, Mark Kulish.

He described his brother as an attorney who was an "inveterate climber of peaks in Colorado, the West and the world over."

Just before he died, Kulish made it into the so-called "Seven Summit Club" of mountaineers who have reached the highest peaks on every continent, his brother said.

Cash, 55, collapsed at the summit and was given CPR and massages by his two Sherpa guides. He got up only to fall again in the same way at Hillary Step, the first cliff face down from the summit. His body was left near there.

Cash had said on his LinkedIn page that he left his job as a sales executive to try to join the seven summits club.

Bangladeshi leader visits Japan to talk economy, partnership

TOKYO (AP)—Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is wooing Japan for aid, trade and investment in a visit that highlights cordial relations with the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Hasina, who is beginning a third consecutive five-year term, arrived late Tuesday and is set to meet Abe and hold a joint news conference Wednesday. A dinner is also being held in her honor.

The leaders will discuss the Bay of Bengal development project and strengthening economic and security partnerships, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Japan has been weary of the security and economic threat of neighboring China and has been courting other nations in Asia as well as the U.S. and Europe.

This week alone, Abe is meeting with leaders of the Philippines, Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore and Laos in addition to Bangladesh. He just finished playing host to a four-day visit by President Donald Trump, which ended Tuesday.

Hasina has visited five times before, as prime minister and opposition leader, but this marks her first visit since taking office in her latest term.

Promoting trade between Japan and Bangladesh is important for both sides, with Bangladesh importing mostly steel, autos and machinery from Bangladesh, and Japan importing clothing products and jute.

Japanese imports from Bangladesh have quadrupled recently compared to 2009 levels. Japanese companies setting shop in Bangladesh are also growing, mostly in textiles and manufacturing.

Japan has long seen Bangladesh as a key partner because Bangladesh has supported Tokyo's wish to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, as well as backed its position on nuclear weapons.

Hasina won an overwhelming victory in the December elections. The opposition alliance is demanding new elections, saying the polls were rigged, an allegation the Election Commission and Hasina have rejected.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Deadly knife attack near Tokyo raises alarm on child safety

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese police have raided the home of a man suspected in a knife attack against schoolgirls and others this week that left two people dead before the man killed himself. The attack near Tokyo on Tuesday has raised concerns about how children can be protected on their way to school. Officials say the knife-brandishing man ran while slashing a group of schoolgirls and their parents walking to or waiting at a bus stop in Kawasaki, killing an 11-year-old girl and a 39-year-old man before fatally slashing himself. At least 17 people were injured. On Wednesday, police raided the home of the alleged attacker, 51-year-old Ryuichi Iwasaki, in another part of Kawasaki. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged security officials to increase safety measures to protect commuting schoolchildren.

US Marine dies after Australia exercise accident

SYDNEY (AP)—A decorated U.S. Marine has died in Australia from injuries sustained in a military training accident. A statement from the U.S. Marines said Lance Cpl. Hans Sandoval-Pereyra, 21, from Fairfax, Virginia, died on Wednesday in Royal Darwin Hospital due to injuries suffered on the weekend in a tactical vehicle accident. The accident occurred during a routine training exercise at an Australian military facility near Darwin, in the country's far north, the statement said. Sandoval-Pereyra, an expeditionary airfield systems technician assigned to the Marines' Aviation Combat Element, had received honors including the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. One other Marine received minor injuries from the accident and was released from the hospital. The cause of the accident is being investigated.

International group asks Pakistan to release journalist

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An international organization that advocates for the rights of journalists has urged Pakistan to immediately release a reporter who was arrested for his coverage of this week's violent clash between minority Pashtuns and troops in a northwestern region near the Afghan border. The Committee to Protect Journalists, a New York-based group, in Tuesday's statement says Gohar Wazir, a reporter working for the private TV station Khyber News, was detained in the town of Bannu after reporting on the demonstration of the Pashtun Protection Movement, a group campaigning against the perceived high-handedness by security forces. The arrest came days after the group led by two lawmakers clashed with troops at an army post in the North Waziristan district, setting off a shootout that wounded five troops and killed three activists.

World

A wake for a Venezuelan boy, and a nation's anguish

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The family of an 11-year-old Venezuelan boy who died of cancer while waiting for a bone marrow transplant held an open-casket wake on Tuesday, giving visitors a chance to see him for the last time as they wondered whether the death could have been avoided.

Erick Altuve lay in an eggshell white coffin with gold-colored trimming. Toys lay on the glass top, framing his face: a couple of stuffed penguins, a tiny flatbed truck, drawing pencils. There were two plastic bottles of the vanilla and chocolate milkshakes he used to drink to try to build strength.

Behind him were a kite with his name on it and a wooden crucifix.

"Sharing with him was the best," said the boy's tearful father, Gilberto Altuve. "It's hard to know he's not here anymore."

The intimate occasion in the Caracas slum of Petare was also part of a nation's anguish over the humanitarian disaster that has gutted the ability of Venezuela's health system to adequately treat the sick. Erick Altuve was among several cancer-stricken children whose deaths have ignited a bitter dispute between the government and opponents over who is to blame.

AP

A cap belonging to 11-year-old Erick Altuve sits on the coffin that contains his remains, in his home in the Petare neighborhood in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

Protesters gathered this week outside the J. M. de los Ríos pediatric hospital after the reported deaths there of Erick and three other children on a waiting list for bone marrow transplants. Many said President Nicolás Maduro's government is responsible for deteriorating medical care in Venezuela, which is also in the grip of hyperinflation as well as food, power and fuel shortages.

But the Venezuelan government alleges U.S. sanctions, aimed at forcing Maduro from power, froze money that could have been used to send the children to Italy for bone marrow transplants. Funds for such operations were previously sent through Venezuela's state oil company, which has been targeted by those sanctions, according to Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza.

There are continuing international efforts to help Venezuelan children with cancer. The Vatican's Bambino Gesu pediatric hospital announced on May 23 that four Venezuelan children, aged 10 to 17, had arrived for oncological treatments with help from the international Red Cross.

Venezuela does not have the capacity for bone marrow transplants, complex operations in which a patient's immune system is wiped out to reduce chances of rejection. A period of waiting then follows to allow the transplant to work and for the immune system to be essentially reset, meaning the patient is susceptible to infections or bacteria in the interim and must be carefully monitored.

Erick Altuve died on Sunday at the J. M. de los Ríos hospital, where relatives of the sick and medical staff say medication and decent nutrition are lacking. There are signs of decay on entering the building. Lighting is poor and some seats are damaged.

Trump team faces tough audiences as it sells Mideast plan

JERUSALEM (AP)—President Donald Trump's top Mideast advisers face skeptical audiences as they visit several locations in the region and in Europe starting Tuesday to rally support for what they have billed as a workshop on the economic foundations of peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The White House is promoting the June 25-26 meeting in the Gulf state of Bahrain as the first phase of its long-awaited Mideast peace plan, which envisions large-scale investment and infrastructure work, much of it funded by wealthy Arab countries, in the Palestinian territories.

But American officials say the Bahrain conference will not include the core political issues of the conflict: borders of a Palestinian state, the status of Jerusalem, the fate of Palestinian refugees or Israeli security demands.

A White House official said the trip, with stops in Morocco, Jordan, Israel and Europe "is part of our ongoing efforts to achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinians" but offered no specifics. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the meetings and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Palestinians will not attend the Bahrain meeting, rejecting the parameters of the conference, while key American allies Egypt and Jordan have not announced their plans for participation.

For now, the Americans are pinning their hopes on wealthy Gulf states, led by Saudi Arabia, hoping their regional influence and deep pockets can make the conference a success.

The Saudis, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, along with host Bahrain, have accepted invitations to attend. This has fueled Palestinian jitters that they will come under heavy pressure to accept large sums of money in exchange for freezing or abandoning aspirations for an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

"The deal of the century or the deal of shame will go to hell, with God's will, and the economic project they are working on next month will go to hell too," Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said this week. "Whoever wants to solve the Palestinian issue must start with the political issue, not by selling the illusions of billions (of dollars."

Jared Kushner, Trump's senior adviser and son in law, announced the plans for the Bahrain conference last week, saying it would focus on economic issues and investment in the Palestinian territories.

The absence of a political horizon has put American allies in the region in a bind. Heavily reliant on the U.S. for political and military support, it is difficult for countries like Jordan to say no to the invitation. But the Palestinian issue resonates deeply with the Arab public and it is difficult for leaders to embrace a plan that does not promise the Palestinians a state.

In accepting the invitation to the Bahrain conference, Gulf countries have been careful to express solidarity with the Palestinians but have also signaled flexibility.

These countries have forged quiet relationships in recent years with Israel, driven primarily by a shared animosity to Iran. Those concerns, and readiness to engage with Israel, appear to outweigh any sympathies they may feel with the Palestinians.

"Dialogue with Israel is a positive thing," Anwar Gargash, the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, recently told journalists. "I think this is something that we need to do, but at the same time the dialogue with Israel doesn't mean that we don't disagree with them politically."

EU divided over top jobs after polls redraw political map

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union leaders stood divided Tuesday over who to name to the bloc's top jobs, after elections shredded comfortable old political alliances and raised troubling questions about the future of the European project.

At a summit in Brussels, major powers France, Germany and Spain all differed over who is best suited to lead the EU's powerful executive arm, the European Commission, for the next five years. Former Luxembourg Premier Jean-Claude heads the commission, which proposes EU laws and ensures they are respected, until Oct. 31.

After voters turned out for last week's European Parliament elections in numbers not seen in 20 years, the leaders want to show they can respond quickly to people's concerns. The aim is to name all four top jobs—the commission chief, a replacement for Donald Tusk as European Council president, a new foreign policy chief and head of the European Central Bank—at a summit June 21-22.

Avoiding any mention of the differences or candidate names, Tusk said the leaders hope "we can provide clarity on all these posts already in June," but he said that "this depends not only my good will but also on the good will of everyone involved."

French President Emmanuel Macron, whose party is joining forces with a new pro-business liberal group in the EU parliament for the first time, insisted the choices should represent the new political project that European voters are demanding.

"The new order means one thing: It's that we cannot just repeat the old habits," Macron told reporters.

"It is important to me that these nominations have parity, that we have two men and two women. It is important for me to have the best profiles possible," he said, noting that there must "be balance in terms of political leanings and in terms of geography."

Other leaders, too, said the aim is to have two women in top posts.

Last week's elections saw Europe's mainstream center-right and center-left parties lose seats in the European Parliament.

The conservative European People's party, which has been the largest group in the assembly, and the Socialists and Democrats have held a majority in the body for 40 years. But voters concerned about climate change, migration or security turned instead to the Greens, the pro-business ALDE group or far-right parties.

As a result, it is unclear what workable majority will emerge in the assembly, which sits in Brussels and Strasbourg, France, when lawmakers gather in July, especially as the leaders and party groups jockey for position.

Still, German Chancellor Angela Merkel described the summit as "good and harmonious," even though Macron virtually ruled out the prospect of her favorite, Manfred Weber, replacing Juncker. He suggested that the former Bavarian lawmaker lacked solid experience.

Weber has never served in government or at a major institution like the European Commission. He has led the European People's Party since 2014, but the group suffered major losses at the polls.

Environment

4 years after California's largest dam removal project, how are the fish doing?

By PAUL ROGERS
THE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Four years ago, construction crews with huge jackhammers tore apart a 10-story concrete dam in the wooded canyons of the Carmel River, between the Big Sur hills and the beach front town of Carmel.

The destruction of the San Clemente Dam, which had blocked the river since 1921, remains the largest dam removal project in California history. It's still early, but one of the main goals of the project seems to be on track: The river is becoming wilder, and struggling fish populations are rebounding.

"We don't want to do the touchdown dance yet, but so far things are looking good," said Tommy Williams, a biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who has monitored the Carmel River's recovery. "It's just amazing how fast these systems come back. Everything is playing out like we thought."

Removal of the century-old dam is being watched closely around the country as a potential model for how to demolish other aging, dangerous and obsolete dams and restore rivers to a natural state not seen in generations.

The 106 foot-tall dam had been located 18 miles up river from Monterey Bay. In 2016, the first year after it was removed, researchers found that no steelhead trout, an iconic type of rainbow trout listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, swam past its former site to a tagging location seven miles upriver. By 2017, seven steelhead had made the trip. Last year, the count was 29. So far this year, 123 steelhead have traveled upriver.

"We're seeing progress. I'm surprised that it has been happening in such a short time," said Aman Gonzalez, who managed the dam removal project for California-American Water, the company that owned it.

The more of the muscular, silvery fish make it upstream, the more the species can expand back into its traditional range, scientists say, increasing the number of places where the fish can spawn and produce more babies in the years ahead.

The broader lesson, scientists say, is one of hope. Despite declines in other species, some wildlife species — from the Great Plains bison to Pacific gray whales to bald eagles —have rebounded significantly, despite plummeting close to extinction, after humans recognized what was killing them and corrected it. For bison and whales, it was hunting. For bald eagles, it was the now-banned chemical DDT.

For steelhead trout, dams built across the West over the past century blocked their ability to swim to the ocean and return upriver to spawn, crashing their populations.

"They just need the right conditions, and they'll come back," said David Boughton, a research ecologist with NOAA in Santa Cruz. "They are a resilient, hardy species."

When San Clemente Dam was built in 1921, the curved arch structure was a key source of water for growing Monterey Peninsula towns.

But its reservoir became silted up with sand and gravel that washed downriver over the years. By 2002, San Clemente's reservoir was so silted up that it stopped supplying water.

Worse, state inspectors declared in 1991 that the aging dam, with its rusted pipes, railings and valves, was at risk of failure in an earthquake — a disaster that could wipe out hundreds of homes downstream. So Cal Am Water had two choices: Shore up a useless dam for $49 million, or tear it down and restore the river for $84 million.

At first, the water company leaned toward buttressing the dam because it was cheaper. But the National Marine Fisheries Service said it was not likely to issue permits because the dam blocked the migration of steelhead, protected by the Endangered Species Act.

The impasse was broken after Cal Am named a new president, and former U.S. Rep. Sam Farr pushed for removal. Under the deal they struck, Cal Am provided $49 million by raising water rates $2.94 a month on its 110,000 customers in Monterey County. Another $25 million came from the California Coastal Conservancy in Oakland, through state parks and water bonds. And the remaining $10 million came from federal grants and private donations.

Construction crews couldn't simply dynamite the dam, however.

That would have released all of the sediment behind it — 2.5 million cubic yards, or enough to fill 250,000 dump trucks — and killed everything in the river. It also could have flooded 1,500 homes downstream.

"All that sediment, how do you move it?" said Gonzalez. "Where do you move it? It would have become a 10-year project. That's why we decided to leave it in place."

Instead, under the contract awarded to Granite Construction of Watsonville, workers rerouted the Carmel River for half a mile into an adjacent stream, San Clemente Creek. The giant sediment pile was shaped, compacted and blocked off.

Crews recycled the dam's steel. They broke the concrete pieces ranging in size from softballs to boulders. They buried the debris in the sediment pile and covered it with willows, sycamores and other native plants. They built rocky step-pools, each one foot higher than the previous one so the fish could migrate upriver more easily.

They also tore out the Old Carmel River Dam, a 32-foot-high structure half a mile downstream that was built in the 1880s to provide water for Hotel Del Monte, the resort that was the precursor to Pebble Beach.

When the rains came in the wet winter of 2017, the river moved millions of tons of sand, gravel, broken trees and other debris downriver. It reclaimed its historic meandering path. The debris created pools and hiding places for young fish to avoid snakes, birds and other predators.

Scientists say they will need another decade to make sure the experiment is working.

"If we go into another big drought, we expect there to be an impact," Williams said. "But we're making more resilient populations of fish, so they should be able to withstand it."

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE:

Isabel Cabrera Sablan Maratita

Lovingly known as "Beck" or "Belang"
Date of Birth: March 10, 1954 Died on: May 23, 2019

In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: †Tomas Palacios and Isabel Mendiola Cabrera Sablan
Parents In-Law: †Pedro Songao and †Maria Ulloa Maratita
Daughter: †Elaine Doreen Sablan
Son: †Joesey Jay Sablan Maratita
Son In-Law: †Daniel Passi Punimata
Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws: †Soledad S. & †Francisco Basa, †Vicente S. & †Maria M. Sablan, †Faustina S. & †Fernando Benavente, †Gregorio S. & †Victoria M. Sablan, †Ana S. & †Henry Indalecio, †Jesus S. Sablan, †Daniel T. Muna, †Martin M. Taisacan, †Manuel C. Sablan, †Rita S. Mettao, †Maria DLR. Gonzalez, †Juan L. Ada, †Thomas C. & Francisca M. Sablan, †Joaquin C. & †Grace C. Sablan, †Ramon C. Sablan, †Edward U. Maratita, †Mametto U. Maratita, †Juan U. Maratita, †Jose U. Maratita, †Jose Q. Babauta

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her husband, children, grandchildren, and great granddaughter:

Husband: Melchor Ulloa Maratita

Children, Grandchildren and Great Granddaughter:
Erica Elizabeth Sablan Maratita & Tony Colon
Bethany Jane Maratita, Eric Jay S. Maratita, Melchor Crispin M. Borja, Joseph John Jr. M. & Evelyn C. Borja (Zoe Jeyne), Dion Julian M. Borja, Isabella Colon

Mel Patrick Sablan Maratita

†Joesey Jay Sablan Maratita & Gina Tanya T. Duenas
Francis Giovanni Fidelino, Keona Kaylee C. Castro, Ricardo Jay C. Castro, Petra Doreen B. Castro, Yuliana Lorenza D. Maratita

Evita Marie Sablan Maratita & †Daniel P. Punimata
Annette Moka M. Punimata

Evira Doreen M. & Patrick D. Tudela Jr.

Robby Thomas Sablan Maratita & Katherine Tesch

Evana Belle Sablan Maratita & Jeffery Barney
Elijia Jamaal Barney, Rezion Jamel Barney, Jesiah Destin Maratita

Chanel Isabel Sablan Maratita & Joaquin M. Torres

Reared Children:
Bethany Jane Maratita, Dion Julian M. Borja, Jesiah Destin Maratita

Best Friend: Maria Rosa P. Nedzwecky

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
†Jesus S. & Rita DLG. Sablan and Famiy, Juana S. & †Daniel T. Muna and Family, Natividad C. Sablan & Ralph Demapan and Family, Matilde S. & †Martin M. Taisacan and Family, †Manuel C. & Concepcion C. Sablan and Family, †Rita S. & Raphael Mettao and Family, †Maria DLR. & Alfred Gonzalez and Family, Maria S. & †Juan L. Ada and Family, Pedro C. & Ignacia M. Sablan and Family, Margarita S. & Jose T. Castro and Family, Bernadita S. & Isidro T. Cabrera and Family

Brothers & Sisters In-Law:
†Edward U. & Rosa C. Maratita and Family, †Mametto U. & Leonisa F. Maratita and Family, Gloria U. Maratita and Family, Beata M. & Francisco R. Sablan and Family, Elisa M. & †Joaquin J. Castro and Family, Delia M. & Ramon B. Camacho and Family, Romana U. Maratita & Jesus S. Cabrera and Family, Janet U. Maratita and Family, Juan U. & Tracy A. Maratita and Family, Vicente U. & Delia S. Maratita and Family, Rosalinda Ulloa & Donald C. Camacho and Family

She will also be missed by her numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, God Children and Close Friends.

Nightly mass is being offered at 6:00 pm at San Antonio Church, except Sunday at 7:00 am.

On Monday, June 3, 2019, her remains will leave CHCC Chapel at 7:00 am and will be escorted to San Antonio Church for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed immediately by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid to rest peacefully.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, Ghilisow
Melchor, Children, Grandchildren & Family

Life & Style

Sports Illustrated magazine sold for $110 million

By TALI ARBEL
AP BUSINESS WRITER

An issue of Sports Illustrated is displayed on a newsstand, Tuesday, May 28, 2019 in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Sports Illustrated magazine has been sold for $110 million to a company that specializes in managing fashion, entertainment and sports brands, including marketing rights to Shaquille O'Neal and Muhammad Ali.

The seller, Meredith Corp., will continue running the print edition and the website SI.com for at least two years. Its editor and publisher are staying on, and the magazine will have editorial independence.

The deal lets Sports Illustrated grow in new areas such as esports, while Meredith can continue to "produce independent, award-winning journalism and storytelling," Sports Illustrated Editor-in-Chief Chris Stone said in a statement.

It's not clear what will happen after two years, though it's possible Meredith and the new buyer, Authentic Brands Group, could extend their licensing deal, terms for which weren't disclosed.

The magazine is "so essential in the psyche of sports," said Samir Husni, director of the Magazine Innovation Center at the University of Mississippi, even after the magazine lost some of its luster with ESPN's entry to sports journalism decades ago.

"I don't think Sports Illustrated is going anywhere soon," Husni said.

Meredith has long published Martha Stewart Living magazine under a licensing deal. "We believe we will have similar, great success developing the vitality and profitability of Sports Illustrated," Meredith spokeswoman Jill Davison said.

For now, she said Meredith and Authentic have "achievable and ambitious goals to meet" and will evaluate the partnership after two years. She said there are no plans to change the magazine's frequency. The once-weekly print edition currently comes out every other week.

Authentic said it sees opportunities to grow Sports Illustrated in digital, TV and social media, making it "a leader in lifestyle and entertainment."

Authentic will take over marketing and business development and will look for other licensing opportunities in products, original content and live events. The company said it sees opportunities to use the Sports Illustrated brand in growing markets for sports gambling and video game competitions known as esports.

"The aim is not only to extend the partnership past the two-year mark, but to expand the relationship beyond the Sports Illustrated brand," Authentic spokeswoman Haley Steinberg said. She said there was an opportunity for Meredith to help develop content for Authentic's other brands.

Authentic's portfolio includes Nine West, Nautica, Juicy Couture and Frederick's of Hollywood.

Sports Illustrated, which began publishing in 1954, covers sports and has an annual swimsuit edition. It has struggled as print advertisers flee for the internet and digital sports outlets crop up. The magazine's circulation has dropped 8.6% in the past five years, to 2.8 million, according to the Alliance for Audited Media. Rival publications have suffered, too. ESPN, for example, said in April that it would shut down its print magazine.

Belgium's ex-monarch agrees to DNA test in paternity case

BRUSSELS (AP)—A decades-old royal paternity scandal is setting Belgium abuzz again.

Lawyers said Tuesday that Belgium's former King Albert II, 84, has finally agreed to a DNA test demanded by a woman who claims to be his daughter in what could be a decisive breakthrough in the long-running case.

By the evening, news of the former king's acquiescence had already pushed Sunday's Belgium election results with its extreme right gains into second place on the local news.

King Albert II, who abdicated in 2013 for health reasons, had been facing a daily fine of 5,000 euros ($5,600) for failing to provide his DNA in the case brought by 51-year-old Delphine Boel.

Boel has been trying to establish paternity for years and her story has often made headlines. Albert has never publicly denied being her father but so far had refused to provide DNA.

A statement from Albert's lawyer, delivered to the Belgian media, said after the former monarch had taken note of the judgment two weeks ago, which imposed the daily fine, he would submit to the test "out of respect to the judicial authorities." It was made clear the move did not imply any admission of guilt.

Boel's lawyer, Yves-Henri Leleu, said she "reacted very positively, because with the DNA test, the biological evidence is now there."

The lawyer for the former monarch said the DNA results would have to be sealed until later in the legal case.

Rumors about Albert and Boel's mother, the aristocratic wife of a well-heeled industrialist, had been around for years. But the news the king may have had a child with her broke out into the open when a biography of Albert's wife, Queen Paola, was published in 1999.

Lawyers duel in Paris over Chris Brown rape allegations

PARIS (AP)—Lawyers have issued very different takes on a formal meeting in Paris that was supposed to take place Tuesday between an alleged rape victim and American singer-songwriter Chris Brown.

A lawyer for a woman who filed a rape complaint in Paris against Brown, Gloria Allred, claims he "has thumbed his nose at and shown disrespect for the French legal system" after he did not attend the formal meeting. Brown's French lawyer says he told authorities Brown could not make the meeting and would reschedule it.

Brown was arrested in January then freed to leave France without charge pending further investigation of the woman's allegations that he and two other men raped her at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Paris. The Grammy winner called the accusation false.

"His failure to appear today is very unfair to my client, but I assure him that my client will not be deterred from seeking justice," said Allred, an American lawyer who traveled to Paris judicial police's headquarters to assist the woman at the meeting.

The woman's French lawyer, Jean-Marc Descoubes, said Brown was not legally obliged to attend the meeting but it was needed to investigate the case.

"If he does not show up a second time ... we will ask the prosecutor to put in place more coercive measures, a warrant to get him to come, because the confrontation requested by our client is key to this case, a sexual abuse case," he said.

Brown's French lawyer, Raphael Chiche, told The Associated Press he had let French authorities know that the artist would not be available because the date was not convenient and he would work to set a new date.

"Chris Brown does not want to escape his responsibilities," Chiche said. "He wants to confront her infamous and calumnious accusations."

Britney Spears' restraining order on ex-manager extended

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' restraining order against her former manager will stay in place for roughly two weeks after a judge on Tuesday suspended a court hearing where he fought the restrictions as overly broad and unconstitutional.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brenda Penny ruled that the order against Sam Lutfi will stay in effect until June 13, when a hearing will resume on whether it can be extended for several years.

Spears

The restraining order alleges that Lutfi harassed and disparaged Spears and her family via social media and text messages. Lutfi has been critical on social media of a conservatorship that has left the singer under the control of the court and her father, adding his voice to a chorus of fans who want her "freed" from the arrangement.

The singer did not appear at the hearing. She was represented by the court-ordered conservatorship that is run by her father, Jamie, and has controlled most of her affairs for 11 years following a mental breakdown.

Lutfi testified Tuesday and Jamie Spears began testimony that will continue at the next hearing.

The courtroom was sealed from media and other members of the public for nearly the entire hearing after attorneys for Spears and her father argued that private details could be revealed that would emotionally harm the singer in a moment of serious vulnerability.

"The anxiety caused would be great," said Samuel D. Ingham III, an attorney for Britney Spears.

The restraining order issued May 8 demands that Lutfi stay at least 200 yards (183 meters) from Britney Spears, her parents and her two sons and to refrain from contacting or disparaging them.

Lutfi and his attorney argued in documents opposing the order that it is "an unconstitutional prior restraint on speech" to prohibit him from making disparaging comments about the singer or her family.

"Would Mr. Lutfi face criminal prosecution if he publicly states that he does not like one of Ms. Spears' songs?" attorney Marc S. Gans says in the documents.

The papers also say that Lufti, 44, has not contacted Britney Spears in 10 years and that her lawyers had not shown that he caused her harm.

"There has been no psychological or other evidence offered by Ms. Spears that she has actually suffered any distress," the documents said.

Lutfi acknowledged that he had sent several text messages to Spears' mother, Lynne, and called her once.

The courtroom is commonly cleared for hearings on her conservatorship, when private financial information and details about Spears' minor sons are discussed, but the media was barred Tuesday based almost entirely on the mental effects that airing the testimony would have on the singer.

Kit Harington checks into a wellness center post-'Thrones'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Game of Thrones" star Kit Harington has checked into a wellness retreat to work on what his representative says are "personal issues."

Harington

A representative for Harington said Tuesday the British actor was utilizing a post-"Game of Thrones" break in his schedule to spend time at the facility. No additional details were released.

Harington played Jon Snow in HBO's widely popular fantasy series "Game of Thrones," which ended after eight seasons this month.

The 32-year-old actor is married to his "Game of Thrones" co-star Rose Leslie.

The Jonas Brothers strike deal for memoir called 'Blood'

AP

This May 1, 2019 file photo shows Joe Jonas, from left, Nick Jonas and Kevin Jonas, of the Jonas Brothers, at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas.

NEW YORK (AP)—The Jonas Brothers want to share their story.

Musicians Kevin, Joe and Nick Jonas have signed a deal with Macmillan to publish their memoir.

The book will delve into the band's formation, rise to stardom, breakup in 2013 and reconciliation as a music group earlier this year.

In a press release, Joe Jonas says they're ready to tell the full story of the journey they've "had as individuals, as artists, and as a family."

"Blood" will hit stores Nov. 12.

Louvre employees mull closing museum again over overcrowding

PARIS (AP)—Employees at the Louvre in Paris are mulling whether to close the museum for a second day this week over tourist overcrowding.

The world's most visited museum was closed on Monday after employees complained they were harassed by tourists waiting to see the Mona Lisa.

Pierre Zinenberg, a Louvre employee and union representative, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that renovation work around the Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece has led to organizational problems and huge queues.

He noted that staff numbers have diminished over the past decade even though the number of visitors has risen 20%.

Zinenberg said a meeting early Wednesday would decide if Louvre management has addressed the problems or whether the museum would be closed again that day.

The museum is closed on Tuesdays.

AP

In this Friday May 17, 2019 file photo, tourists walk around the pyramid of the Louvre museum, in Paris.

Amazon to release Mindy Kaling's new essay collection

NEW YORK (AP)—Mindy Kaling is taking a different path with her next book.

The actress and writer plans to release her third collection of essays through Amazon.com's Amazon Original Stories imprint. The book, currently untitled, is scheduled for the summer 2020. Amazon announced Tuesday that topics will include Kaling's experience as a single mother and working with Reese Witherspoon and Oprah Winfrey. Amazon is the country's leading bookseller but has struggled at times as a publisher because rival stores are reluctant to stock its books.

At Brookline Booksmith, in Brookline, Massachusetts, the store's co-owner and manager, Peter Win, says the general policy is to avoid Amazon releases. But Kaling has a special history at the Booksmith, where she appeared on one of her first stops while promoting the collection "Why Not Me." A possible compromise: Don't stock the new book, but agree to order it upon request.

"We're going to have to talk about this and figure out what to do," Win said.

The deal furthers Kaling's relationship with Amazon's film division, which acquired the U.S. rights to her comedy "Late Night." It opens June 7.

Kaling's previous books, "Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me" and "Why Not Me," were best-sellers published by Penguin Random House.

Maintaining friend's website becomes unwelcome burden

DEAR ABBY: Around 12 years ago, I helped out an old friend I'll call Patty by creating an author website for her. I have maintained it for her ever since. She is grateful and gives me a gift every once in a while to show her appreciation.

Over time, her requests for revisions and updates have increased to the point that I dread receiving them. I'm very busy with a business I own, and I really don't want to do this for her anymore.

The problem is, I created the website using an obscure program she has no idea how to use (she's tech-unsavvy to begin with), so if I stop, I would be leaving her high and dry. Oh, and she has no money, so I don't think hiring someone to take over would be an option. The only thing I could recommend to her is that she start making a new webpage from scratch, using a free site.

I'm dying to let this go, but I think she'll be crushed, and I hate to hurt her. Any advice?

OVERWORKED FRIEND

DEAR OVERWORKED: Explain to your friend that you have a business to run and you will no longer be able to give her the free services you have been. Then, if you want to keep the friendship, rebuild her a website on a platform that will be easier for her—or someone else—to manage in the future.

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law has always been a bully and a chronic liar. It has torn our family apart. He'll tell one family member one thing, and the other another story for the purpose of getting them mad at each other. He is also a narcissist. Innocent people have been victimized by all of this.

Now he is moving on to the elderly neighbors and lying to them about family members. Confronting him will do no good. We have tried. How do we get him to stop the bullying and lying? His wife is no help because she has been brainwashed and can no longer think for herself. Please help. Maybe by publishing this letter it will turn on a lightbulb.

DESPERATE IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR DESPERATE: Because your brother-in-law is now spreading misinformation among the elderly neighbors, explain to THEM that he has a "personality disorder" and a problem with the truth. Then give them some examples and, with luck, you can nip this in the bud.

DEAR ABBY: I have depression and anxiety problems. My dad sometimes forgets that I have it. I tried to kill myself a couple of times. I asked him if I can have a service dog for my mental health problems. He says I can't have one. I understand his reasons, but I think it would help me. I really need help.

GOING INSANE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR GOING INSANE: I cannot fathom how the parent of a child who has attempted to commit suicide would "forget" it. I will assume that you are under the care of a mental health professional for your depression and anxiety. If you aren't, you should be. Your father may be more open to accepting the concept of a therapy dog if he hears it from your therapist.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

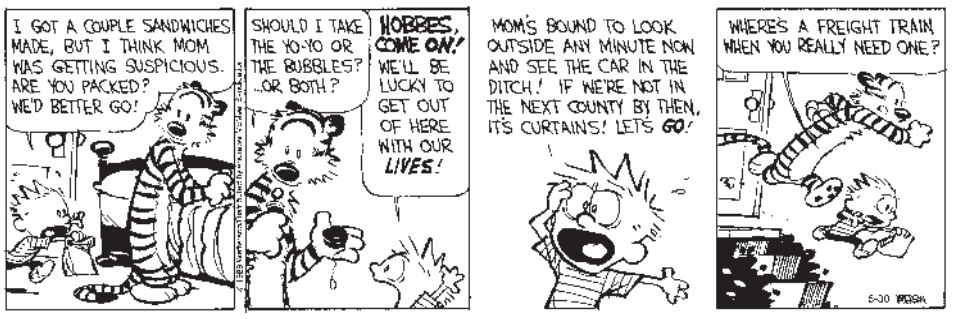
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I GOT A COUPLE SANDWICHES MADE, BUT I THINK MOM WAS GETTING SUSPICIOUS. ARE YOU PACKED? WE'D BETTER GO!
SHOULD I TAKE THE YO-YO OR THE BUBBLES? ...OR BOTH?
HOBBES, COME ON! WE'LL BE LUCKY TO GET OUT OF HERE WITH OUR LIVES!
MOM'S BOUND TO LOOK OUTSIDE ANY MINUTE NOW AND SEE THE CAR IN THE DITCH! IF WE'RE NOT IN THE NEXT COUNTY BY THEN, IT'S CURTAINS! LETS GO!
WHERE'S A FREIGHT TRAIN WHEN YOU REALLY NEED ONE?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT'S UP?
THE RAIN GOT ME. I GIVE UP.
IT'S THE END OF MAY. WE SHOULD BE FROLICKING.
IN A POOL. THROUGH A SPRINKLER. WE'RE MISSING PRIME FROLIC TIME.
YOU'VE NEVER FROLICKED IN YOUR LIFE.
OH, I FROLIC. I FROLIC ON THE INSIDE, CLAYTON.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DO YOU WANT TO BUY SOME GIRL TROOPER COOKIES? ONLY $10 A BOX.
NO, THANKS. I CAN DRIVE TO THE STORE AND BUY THEM FOR HALF THAT.
NOT WITH FOUR SLASHED TIRES YOU CAN'T.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Potential syrup
4 Ship's front
8 Dutch cheese
12 Family card game
13 One with will power?
14 Cover with blacktop
15 Kind of stove
17 Mid-month date
18 Solo of "Star Wars"
19 Pie chart divisions
21 Exact
24 Fan's cry
25 "East of Eden" brother
26 Blend
28 Interior design
32 Curved molding
34 Signing need
36 Chicago paper, briefly
37 Irritable
39 "Mayday!"
41 Blackbird
42 Summer mo.
44 Orders of pancakes
46 Snarls
50 Annoy
51 Pulitzer winner James
52 Soup cooker
56 Katy Perry hit song
57 Hunt for
58 Wilder's "— Town"
59 Leer at
60 Nashville venue
61 Dead heat

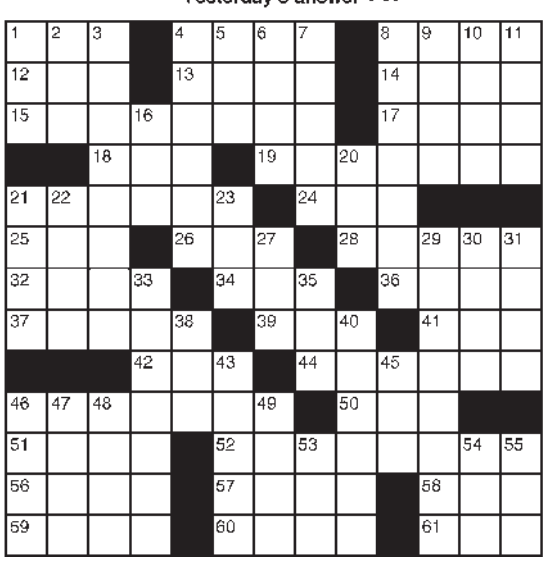
DOWN

1 Dine
2 Year in Cancún
3 Driving hazards
4 Wunderkind
5 Seminary subj.
6 Monet's supply
7 More ironic
8 Disparaging term
9 Pedestal part
10 Declare
11 GI dining hall
16 Slugger's need
20 Scoundrel
21 Highlander
22 Senate staffer
23 Chill in the air
27 Ballot marks
29 Eccentric
30 Sty cry
31 Baseball stats
33 Curio cabinet
35 Refusals
38 Actor Brynner
40 Viscid
43 Bas-relief medium
45 Noah's boat
46 Poi base
47 Awestruck
48 Patricia of "Hud"
49 Dance move
53 "— the ramparts ..."
54 Gigi's "yes"
55 Three, in Rome

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	A	T	■	C	A	P	S	■	A	C	E	S
E	M	O	■	C	U	E	A	■	S	E	A	S
E	O	N	■	H	A	P	P	Y	H	O	J	H
P	R	I	M	O	■	■	S	A	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	R	A	M	■	P	O	L	A	R
F	E	A	S	T	C	A	■	N	O	V	O	■
I	■	I	B	■	S	I	D	F	A	■	D	N	C
O	R	F	S	■	N	F	W	S	W	■	F	K
G	E	T	U	P	■	A	S	S	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	N	E	C	■	■	U	S	A	G	E
F	I	R	S	T	Y	E	A	R	■	B	I	C
O	D	I	C	■	E	L	B	E	■	U	G	H
R	A	P	T	■	C	I	E	D	■	T	I	O

Yesterday's answer 5-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Winget, 34; Rory Bushfield, 36; Idina Menzel, 48; Wynonna Judd, 55.

Happy Birthday: Listen, observe and contemplate what's possible and what isn't. Be leery of anything that sounds too good to be true. Consider what your attributes are and how best to put them to good use. A partnership with someone special or accomplished will encourage you to believe in yourself and what you are capable of doing. Your numbers are 3, 8, 17, 26, 35, 42, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Channel your emotional energy into something concrete. You can accomplish a lot if you use your intelligence, experience and skills to ensure you get what you want. A meeting will allow you to present and promote what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* If you think change is needed, start the ball rolling. Don't wait for someone to take over or beat you at your own game. Step up and do the legwork required to put your plans in motion. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't limit what you can do or hesitate to say what's on your mind. Look for an opportunity, and move quickly to close a deal or to take care of business that might stand between you and what you want. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't get worked up over nothing. Remain calm, and focus on the positive. Personal growth and self-improvement are encouraged. A kind gesture will lead to an unexpected opportunity. A romantic gesture will give you something to look forward to. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stretch your mind. Digest information, and consider what's valuable. Don't make unnecessary changes that might affect your status or reputation. Be receptive to someone's request, and lend a helping hand. Don't let a change someone makes unnerve you. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Look for quality, not quantity. Focus on what's important to you, and make changes that will enhance your life, update your image and bring about positive adjustments to the way or where you live. Walk away from drama and stressful situations. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Communication will be the determining factor when dealing with a peer, sibling or someone who doesn't share your beliefs or ideas. Keep an open mind, but don't lose sight of who you are or what you stand for. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Change begins by taking action. Don't be afraid to do things differently. Follow your gut feeling, and make adjustments as you move forward. A positive gesture will improve your relationship with someone you want to spend more time with. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Address emotional issues openly to avoid a misunderstanding. If someone tries to meddle in your affairs, make it clear it isn't all right with you. An opportunity to get to know someone better will reveal his or her good and bad traits. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A plan you have should be revealed. If you try to surprise someone, the response won't be what you expect. Let your intentions be known. Do the work yourself if you want to make a personal change. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Get together with an old friend or set up a play date with someone who enjoys the same things you do. Don't feel you have to give in to someone who wants to make decisions for you. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be honest about what you can do. If you pursue the impossible, you'll be disappointed. Working in conjunction with a group heading in a direction you like will help make it easier for you to achieve your objective. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are obliging, charismatic and playful. You are creative and outspoken.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	7		2		9			
	6					5		3
				6	5		9	
1			4		8			
			7		2			6
	1		6	5				
5		8					7	
			9		3		5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	3	4	2	5	8	7	6	1
5	2	7	6	9	1	8	4	3
1	8	6	4	7	3	9	5	2
4	7	9	1	3	5	2	8	6
6	5	8	9	2	4	1	3	7
3	1	2	8	6	7	4	9	5
2	9	5	7	8	6	3	1	4
7	4	3	5	1	9	6	2	8
8	6	1	3	4	2	5	7	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

KICKING A HABIT — Solution: 8 letters

L	E	E	O	R	A	D	N	E	L	A	C	L	B	P
A	V	T	V	O	R	E	W	A	R	D	U	O	E	R
N	E	A	E	T	T	R	O	F	F	E	E	R	H	O
O	I	I	R	N	T	G	H	O	C	G	S	T	A	G
I	H	T	C	E	R	T	C	R	N	I	U	N	V	R
T	C	I	O	M	L	U	O	A	S	R	B	O	I	A
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Job's not done: Raptors reset, as finals looms

AP

Toronto Raptors forward Pascal Siakam (43) drives under pressure from Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) and Brook Lopez (11) during the first half of Game 6 of the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals Saturday, May 25, 2019, in Toronto.

TORONTO (AP)—The parade that the Toronto Raptors enjoyed last week was an impromptu and quick one.

A chance at the real parade awaits.

There is a clear back-to-work vibe coming from the Raptors as they get ready for Game 1 of the NBA Finals against the two-time defending champion Golden State Warriors on Thursday night in Toronto. There was some reveling late last week for an hour or two after winning the Eastern Conference title, but that feeling is nowhere to be found anymore.

"We know that we accomplished some great things," Raptors guard Danny Green said. "But the job's not done."

When the Raptors won the East, after the on-court celebrations and a few moments back in the locker room, someone got the brilliant notion to take the silver conference-championship trophy to what's known as "Jurassic Park" — the outdoor area usually called Maple Leaf Square, unless the Raptors are playing.

So, with players flanked by security and Drake—of course—Kyle Lowry carried the trophy out through an arena concourse long after the game was over on Saturday night, past hundreds of lingering fans who tried to get hugs and photos, and the group eventually made their way toward the outdoor stage. Most fans were gone by then, and the party didn't last long.

By Sunday, Lowry had shifted his focus to the finals anyway.

"Pretty much," Lowry said. "It's a big task at hand. We know we've got a good team, and we've got to be focused every single possession. They're all going to be massive in this series."

Handling this moment is sure to be a challenge for the Raptors, since most of the players on Toronto's roster haven't been to the finals before.

If there is a silver lining there, it's that Toronto has already dealt with the mood-swing pendulum in these playoffs.

The most worried Raptors coach Nick Nurse has been about a game so far this postseason was Game 1 of the East finals at Milwaukee—a game that came a couple days after Kawhi Leonard's buzzer-beating jumper hit the rim four times before dropping in and giving Toronto a win in Game 7 of the East semifinals against Philadelphia.

"If there was ever a time I thought maybe a disastrous moment could happen, it was then," Nurse said. "But man, we played great. Totally outplayed them. We played tough. We didn't win the game but I thought we outplayed them almost all the way through. We just didn't get the ball to bounce our way. We might have used a couple bounces a couple days earlier. But again, that just showed me our team was capable of kind of keeping their emotions in check."

They'll need to be that way again Thursday night.

Fred VanVleet doesn't think it'll be a problem.

"None of us in October and July and June of last year were working out thinking about the conference finals," the Raptors' backup guard said Tuesday. "Obviously, it's a great accomplishment, and we're happy to be taking that next step. But you want to win a championship. You want to win the whole thing. It's not about just making it to the finals."

The arena will be electric for Game 1. Jurassic Park will be rocking yet again. But the quick little trophy parade through the halls and stairwells of Scotiabank Arena — one where Green revealed on his podcast earlier this week that reserve OG Anunoby was inadvertently decked in the eye by a celebrating fan, and where Leonard needed two security staffers to clear his path—will be long forgotten by the Raptors when Game 1 rolls around.

"I think everybody understands that," Raptors center Marc Gasol said. "You get to kind of soak it in and enjoy that moment and after that night, the next morning, it's on to the next challenge."

Everyone knows what that challenge is, too.

The Warriors are coming.

"I think along this little playoff run there's been some critical, critical games," Nurse said. "There's been some ups and downs, and again, I know I keep (sounding like a) broken record, but we're just trying to take what's in front of us. And right now, it's Game 1.

Durant travels with Warriors ahead of Game 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Kevin Durant is traveling with the Golden State Warriors to Toronto for the first two games of the NBA Finals, leaving open the chance he could be ready to return from a strained right calf in time for Game 2.

Durant, the two-time reigning Finals MVP who has missed the past five games since getting hurt in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals against Houston, has already been ruled out for Game 1 on Thursday night.

As of Tuesday, when Golden State held an optional practice before flying, he had yet to do any full-speed work on the court. He has done some shooting, coach Steve Kerr said.

"If he did anything on the court, it would have been pretty light," Kerr said.

Warriors spokesman Raymond Ridder confirmed Durant was on the two-time defending champions' team plane that took off early afternoon West Coast time and landed late in Canada.

There will be two full days off before Game 2 on Sunday, giving Durant time to get further on-court work done that the Warriors would need to see before he is medically cleared.

"We'll see where it goes from here," Kerr said Monday. "This is where the fact that there's a lot of days in between games during the finals helps us, so we'll see."

Durant didn't travel to Houston for Game 6 of that round or to Portland for the two road games against the Trail Blazers in the Western Conference finals. He remained in the Bay Area to rehab, and the Warriors are unbeaten without him.

An impending free agent this summer, he was hurt May 8 when he landed awkwardly on his right foot following a baseline jumper late in the third quarter of a 104-99 victory over the Rockets at Oracle Arena. Durant is averaging 34.2 points per game this postseason.

Kerr said Durant has been spending countless hours rehabbing to recover—hoping to get back soon to what he loves most.

"You get that fear of missing out on stuff, like practices and shootarounds and new game plans and stuff like that. That's what I miss the most, obviously, grinding on the court individually and with my team. But that's out of my hands. Out of my control," Durant said Friday.

"My task is to try to conquer this, and I think that's the journey (we're) on as basketball players. So I'm pretty much down for anything but I'm excited that I'm making progress."

Center DeMarcus Cousins, out with a torn left quadriceps muscle he injured in Game 2 of the first round against the Clippers, hadn't been ruled out for Game 1 though Kerr mentioned the magnitude of coming back on the finals stage after so much missed time.

Cousins—in his first career postseason—scrimmaged Saturday and again Monday, a sign of progress he is closer to being ready.

Wambach to be inducted into National Soccer Hall of Fame

NEW YORK—It seemed to be a matter of time before Abby Wambach would be inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

Julie Foundy, who played with Wambach on the women's national team and a Hall of Fame member, told her former teammate Saturday that time has arrived.

Wambach will be inducted Sept. 21, along with former U.S. Soccer president Sunil Gulati—a key figure in the growth of the game in the United States — in Frisco, Texas at Toyota Stadium.

The National Soccer Hall of Fame will make room for Wambach, the all-time leading goal scorer in women's international soccer with 184 goals. Wambach played in the 2004 and 2012 Olympics where the team won gold medals and four Women's World Cups from 2003-2015. The United States won the 2015 Women's World Cup.

The United States Soccer Federation named Wambach the organization's women's athlete of the year six times, the last in 2012. She was the FIFA world women's player of the year in 2012.

Without a doubt, Wambach was one of the stars of the United States-based Women's United Soccer Association, Women's Professional Soccer League and the National Women's Soccer League.

Meanwhile, Brazil star Marta is optimistic she will fully recover from a left thigh injury before the women's World Cup starts in France next month.

Speaking for the first time since was injured in training in Portugal last Friday, the 33-year-old Marta said in a video released by Brazil's football confederation that she expects to return to action "very soon."

The confederation said Saturday that Marta had suffered a left thigh muscle injury and would need need physical therapy for a week before undertaking another fitness test.

The Women's World Cup starts on June 7 in France.

Marta has won the award for world's best women's player six times.

Cancer survivor Smeltzer strong in debut

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— Devin Smeltzer added another chapter to his inspiring comeback story, pitching six shutout innings in his big league debut and helping the Minnesota Twins beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-3 Tuesday night.

Diagnosed with a grapefruit-sized cancerous tumor against his bladder when he was just 9 years old, Smeltzer wasn't deterred in his goal to reach the majors. The 23-year-old got his chance this week after the Twins put pitcher Michael Pineda on the injured list with right knee tendinitis.

Smeltzer allowed three hits, walked none and struck out seven. Showing a funky, three-quarter style delivery, the lanky left-hander threw 69 pitches, 53 for strikes.

Smeltzer left with the game scoreless and got a no-decision.

Eddie Rosario homered and Max Kepler added a two-run double for Minnesota, which has won 12 of 14 and has the best record in the majors.

Keston Hiura and Yasmani Grandal homered late and Alex Claudio took the loss for the Brewers.

Astros 9, Cubs 6

In Houston, Alex Bregman homered twice, his second a tiebreaking two-run shot in the sixth inning that propelled the injury-weakened Astros to a win over the Chicago Cubs that gave manager AJ Hinch his 500th career victory.

Bregman, who is tied for the American League lead with 17 homers, got his first one in the third inning off starter Jon Lester (3-4). It was tied at 6-6 when he connected on Brad Brach's first pitch for the second.

Bregman's big game helped the Astros overcome five home runs by the Cubs on a night Houston played with a lineup peppered with recent reinforcements from Triple-A as stars Jose Altuve, George Springer and Carlos Correa all sat out with injuries. Bregman has a franchise-record 12 home runs this month, passing Jimmy Wynn, who had 11 in May 1969.

Padres 5, Yankees 4

In New York, Eric Hosmer hit a three-run homer during a big first inning against Masahiro Tanaka, and San Diego manager Andy Green burned through his bullpen to help the Padres hold off the Yankees on a soggy night.

New York tried to rally in the rain, getting three runs in the seventh inning during a stretch when Green used six pitchers to face eight batters—not exactly endearing himself to fans huddled under ponchos and umbrellas. San Diego escaped the seventh on Gary Sánchez's flyout, Craig Stammen pitched the eighth and former Yankee reliever Kirby Yates pitched the ninth for his 21st save in 21 chances.

The game ended when video review overturned a safe call on DJ LeMahieu's grounder, giving the Padres a double play.

Sánchez hit a solo homer in the fourth for the AL East-leading Yankees, who lost for the third time in 15 games. It was Sánchez's 17th homer, one shy of his total from an injury-spoiled 2018.

Reds 11, Pirates 6

In Cincinnati, Derek Dietrich hit three homers—all two-run shots for Cincinnati— and Pittsburgh suffered yet another injury to its rotation in a loss to the Reds.

Dietrich connected in the fourth off Jordan Lyles (5-2), who left after the inning with discomfort in his left hamstring. Dietrich then connected off Geoff Hartlieb in the fifth and again in the seventh for his first three-homer game. His 17 homers set a career high, and 12 of his last 17 hits have been home runs.

Scooter Gennett was the last Reds player with so many homers, matching the major league record with four on June 6, 2017.

The Pirates have had 22 players on the injured list this season, with starter Chris Archer also missing time because of a sore thumb.

Pittsburgh lost for the seventh time in nine games and fell to 26-27, the first time the Pirates have been below .500 since May 3.

Tigers 3, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Matthew Boyd took a five-hitter into the seventh inning, Niko Goodrum homered and Detroit interrupted a prolonged slump by defeating the Orioles.

JaCoby Jones had two doubles and an RBI for the Tigers, who won for only the second time in 14 games since May 12.

Boyd (5-4) struck out eight and allowed six hits in six-plus innings. Shane Greene got three straight outs in the ninth for his 17th save in 18 tries.

It was Detroit's second shutout of the season, and the fourth time Baltimore has been blanked.

The game drew a crowd of 8,106, the seventh time in 27 games the Orioles have attracted fewer than 10,000 fans to Camden Yards. Baltimore has lost 16 of 20 and owns the worst record in the majors (17-38).

AP

Minnesota Twins pitcher Devin Smeltzer, making his major league debut, throws against the Milwaukee Brewers in the fourth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 28, 2019, in Minneapolis.

Rays 3, Blue Jays 1

In Florida, Austin Meadows homered for the third straight game and five Tampa Bay pitchers combined to throw a six-hitter and beat struggling AL East rival Toronto.

The second-place Rays won for the fourth straight time, improving to a season-best 13 games over .500 before an announced crowd of just 5,786 — smallest ever for a Rays home game at Tropicana Field.

The Blue Jays have dropped six of seven and fell to 0-8-1 in their series against Tampa Bay, dating to August 2017.

Meadows hit his 12th homer of the season, a solo shot to right field off reliever Thomas Pannone in the seventh inning.

Avisail Garcia had an inside-the-park homer off Clayton Richard (0-1) in the third and also scored on a first-inning sacrifice fly.

Marlins 11, Giants 3

In Miami, Jorge Alfaro and Garrett Cooper hit Miami's first three-run homers of the year and sent San Francisco to its sixth straight loss.

Trevor Richards (2-5) gave up a homer to Joe Panik on the game's first pitch but blanked San Francisco thereafter. He allowed two hits and one run in seven innings.

The Marlins earned their eighth victory in 11 games but still have the worst record in the National League. Starlin Castro's two-out, two-run double in the third put Miami ahead to stay. Rookie Harold Ramirez had three hits to hike his average to .413 in 13 games. Pinch hitter Rosell Herrera hit his first homer of the year in the eighth to make the score 11-1.

Jeff Samardzija (2-4) lost his third start in a row. He allowed a season-high five earns runs in four-plus innings, matching his shortest outing of the year.

Phillies 4, Cardinals 3

In Philadelphia, Cesar Hernandez hit a go-ahead two-run homer, Nick Pivetta threw five tough innings and Philadelphia beat slumping St. Louis.

Paul Goldschmidt and Marcell Ozuna hit homers in the first inning, but the Cardinals wasted a 3-0 lead and lost for the 11th time in 15 games.

Pivetta (3-1) allowed three runs and three hits, striking out six in his first start since a demotion to the minors.

Cardinals starter Adam Wainwright (4-5) gave up four runs and eight hits in six innings with a season-high 10 strikeouts.

White Sox 4 Royals 2
White Sox 3 Royals 2

In Chicago, Lucas Giolito struck out 10 while winning his fifth straight start and the White Sox posted their second victory of the day.

Hours after Yolmer Sanchez hit an RBI single in the ninth inning to give Chicago a 2-1 win in the resumption of a suspended game, Giolito (7-1) put on quite a performance.

The right-hander gave up a three-run homer to Alex Gordon in the first, then dominated the rest of the way. Giolito allowed three hits over eight innings and improved to 6-0 in his past eight starts. In his previous outing, he threw his first career shutout, a four-hitter against Houston.

Alex Colome worked the ninth for his 10th save in 10 chances after getting the win earlier in the day. And the White Sox made it back-to-back victories after losing six of eight.

Brad Keller (3-6) gave up four runs and 10 hits in six innings for Kansas City. The Royals have lost nine of 12.

Nationals 5, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Stephen Strasburg matched his season high with 11 strikeouts in seven innings and Washington took the lead on three straight walks to beat Atlanta.

Howie Kendrick had three hits, including his ninth homer, for Washington. Trea Turner also had three hits.

Braves rookie Austin Riley's two-run homer in the eighth cut Washington's lead to 5-4. Riley had three hits.

Sean Doolittle earned his 10th save in 12 chances.

Strasburg (5-3) gave up an RBI single to Nick Markakis in Atlanta's two-run fourth. He struck out two batters in each of the first three innings and gave up only five hits and two runs.

Angels 6, Athletics 4

In Oakland, Joakim Soria took issue with a 1-2 curveball he believed should have been strike three to Shohei Ohtani, who two pitches later lined a go-ahead single and Oakland's best winning streak in 13 years had all but ended.

Ohtani hit the tiebreaking two-run single with two outs in the ninth inning, and the Los Angeles Angels snapped the Athletics' 10-game winning streak.

The Angels went ahead in the top of the ninth when Tommy LaStella singled with two outs and Mike Trout walked. They advanced on Soria's wild pitch. Ohtani got the hit and when the inning ended Soria immediately went to home plate and yelled in the face of umpire James Hoye and was ejected.

Osaka, Halep escape upset axe at French Open

PARIS (AP)—Naomi Osaka's body language made her plight plain. For all she's already accomplished, the internal pressure stemming from aiming to do even more was ruining her debut as the No. 1 seed at a Grand Slam tournament.

Fed up with her poor play in a first-round match at the French Open—errors off Osaka's racket gave her opponent her first 30 points Tuesday—she missed yet another shot. She was within a game of losing. Osaka wheeled around to look at her box and display what seemed to be a sarcastic thumbs-up.

"Definitely sarcastic. I was kind of thinking: 'Do you guys see this amazing tennis I'm playing right here? Thumbs-up.' I don't even know what I wanted them to do. I felt kind of bad after I did it. It was more like I had to put my emotions somewhere," Osaka said. "It's one of those matches where you're not playing well, but you have to find a way to win. For me, I've just begun learning how to do that."

Five times just two points from defeat in a swirling wind, Osaka held it together enough to overcome all of those miscues and stretch her winning streak at majors to 15 matches by eventually beating 90th-ranked Anna Karolina Schmiedlova of Slovakia 0-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1.

AP

Japan's Naomi Osaka plays a shot against Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova during their first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

As she got going, Osaka delivered a pinpoint cross-court forehand that was too hard to handle, then looked at her box again, this time with a pumping clenched left fist. Afterward, she acknowledged having jitters as she pursues a third consecutive major title while topping the seedings.

"I feel like I'm thinking too much about the number next to my name right now, instead of feeling free and having fun like I normally do in Grand Slams," Osaka said. "The reason that I wasn't moving my feet is because I was super nervous, super stressed."

Defending champion Simona Halep could relate.

Starting her first defense of a Slam title, she also turned in an uneven performance and needed three sets to get by, topping 47th-ranked Ajla Tomljanovic 6-2, 3-6, 6-1.

"I need to be calm. Just focused on my game. Not thinking about my opponents and not thinking about the result," said Halep, who was a runner-up twice in Paris before earning the trophy in 2018.

Clay has never been Osaka's best surface; her power-based style is more suited to hard courts, such as those at the U.S. Open, which she won last September, or the Australian Open, which she won in January to become the first tennis player from Japan to be ranked No. 1.

Her only first-round exit in 13 appearances at majors came at the French Open two years ago. The only 6-0 Grand Slam set she has lost came Tuesday.

Yet after having a career record of 9-11 on clay entering this season, she is 8-1 on the slow stuff in 2019. She talked about feeling more and more comfortable on the surface and assured everyone that the abdominal and thumb injuries she'd dealt with in recent weeks were no longer any issue.

But nothing seemed right at the outset against Schmiedlova, who has never been past the third round at a major and is 6-15 in openers.

Schmiedlova's first 30 points came via 18 unforced errors and 12 forced errors by Osaka—and zero winners of her own.

By the end, Osaka won despite 38 unforced errors, 24 more than her foe.

She'll probably want to play better in her next match, against two-time Australian Open champion and former No. 1 Victoria Azarenka.

"It's going to be exciting for me," said Azarenka, who eliminated 2017 French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko 6-4, 7-6 (4). "I love to challenge myself against the best players."

Osaka appeared to be finding her groove ahead 3-0 in the second set.

That's when the day's off-and-on rain returned briefly in the form of sprinkles. Spectators popped open umbrellas and the players covered themselves with orange tournament towels while waiting on their sideline seats, before heading off court for about five minutes.

In all, the delay was less than 10 minutes—play continued elsewhere—so there was no warmup when they returned. The respite served Schmiedlova well: She suddenly produced her very first winner with a 96 mph (155 kph) serve to get within 3-1, then made it 3-all.

Schmiedlova served for the match twice. At 6-5, 30-15, and again later, she was two points from pulling off what would have been only the second first-round upset of the women's No. 1 seed in French Open history.

This is what Osaka said was running through her mind: "Can I sleep at night, knowing that I maybe could have done something more?"

Schmiedlova couldn't close it out. Osaka wouldn't let her.

"You could see," Schmiedlova said, "that she's No. 1, there."

REPEAT

From Page 28

tary School, Ysabella Lenteja of Tinian Elementary School, Jaime Pangelinan of Marianas High School, and Christopher Cruz of San Vicente were also honored yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road.

Hong was the recipient of the top honors in the U7 age group anew after scoring 40 points—10 each for his victories in the 60m, 100m, 200m, and 400m runs. Lenteja also kept her reign in the girls U9 division after notching 40 points for her first place finishes in the 60m, 100m, and 200m runs and the softball throw.

Pangelinan also dominated the sprints—100m and 200m runs—and finished second in the long jump and javelin throw to take the most outstanding athlete award in the girls U18 age group for the second straight year. Cruz, who was the top athlete in the U9 division last year, lived up to expectations despite moving to a much competitive division (U11), as he won the group's 100m, 200m, and 400m races.

Meanwhile, Saipan International School's Beatrice Gross, Hopwood Middle School's Craig Padayao and Angel Roligat, and Tinian Junior and Senior High School's Tyler Santos were first-time winners of the individual award.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Beatrice Gross, third left, and her coach, Kathy Ruszala, second left, are all smiles after the former received the most outstanding athlete award in the girls U7 division of the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road.

Gross gained 36 points off her first place finishes in the 60m run and long jump and runner-up in the 100m and 200m runs to earn the top honors in the girls U7 division. Santos received the award in the boys U18 for sweeping the 400m, 800m, 1,500m, and 3,000m races.

Padayao and Roligat were the runaway winners of the most outstanding athlete award in the U14 age group with the former ruling the 100m, 200m, and 400m runs and placing second in the long jump. Roligat, on the other hand, was impressive in the field events with her victories in the high jump, shot put, and discus and javelin throws.

"Congratulations to the most outstanding athletes and we hope to see you compete in more All Schools tournaments. We would also like to commend the coaches and the teachers and the students' parents for their support. Stay with the program and continue your strong work," said McDonald's Middle Road manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., who led the presentation of trophies to the winners along with NMA president Ray Tebuteb and secretary Robin Sapong and PSS Student Support Services Athletic Program director Nick Gross.

Global Running Day June 5

In related news, NMA is inviting everyone to join the International Association of Athletics Federations' "Global Running Day" on June 5 at 5pm at the Oleai track oval. The one-mile run is free and NMA will be providing participants with water and fruits after the event.

'CRANK'

From Page 28

lenged Jingliang Li's foe in the UFC Fight Night 111 in Singapore two years ago. Hein's original foe was Italy's Luigi Vendramin, but he got injured, thus UFC tapped Camacho to take the latter's place.

Since getting the short notice, the Guam-born and Saipan-raised athlete has been studying his opponent.

"I've been watching my opponent for a while, so nothing really new coming into this next bout," said Camacho, taking notes of Hein's reputation as a good ground fighter, having won his first four fights via submission.

Camacho has tapped out opponents three times out of his 28 bouts and pundits favored him in a standup encounter. Sherdog.com, an MMA website, had Camacho landing 295 strikes in his first UFC bouts. Hein (14-4) connected only 50 on Drew Dober, the same guy that Camacho faced and hit 106 strikes, and the German had a total of just 182 strikes in his last three fights.

Whether this weekend's bout will be a fistfight or a battle on the ground, tbe Marianas pride vowed for a better showing this time after his back-to-back losses.

"You'll see a more calculated, methodical, and focused Frank Camacho. When I put it all together, it gets dangerous," he said.

Fiesta Resort Teams at KONQER Saipan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan employees pose for a photo after surviving last Saturday's KONQER Saipan: Zombie Apocalypse.

A Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan team member (in blue top) navigates the "Fire Man."

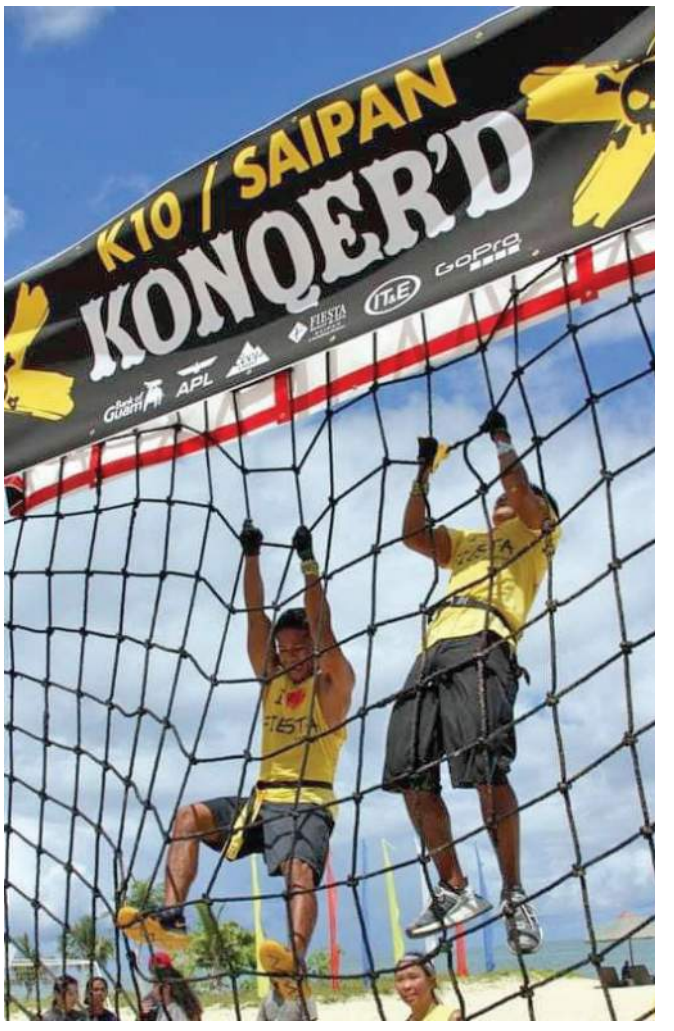
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan team members huddle to discuss their strategy.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan employees celebrate after getting the finishers medals.

A Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan team member runs uphill at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park while being chased by a "zombie."

A Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan employee (in blue top) takes her time negotiating the "Metal Monster."

A Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan team member heads down "The Spider-Man."



Two Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan team members try to complete the last obstacle course.

Job's not done: Raptors reset, as finals looms

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Cancer survivor Smeltzer strong in debut

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Paire, Kanoa shut down opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club and Kanoa Football Club cruised to victories in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's 11 vs. 11 League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In the curtain-raiser, Paire crushed Matansa Football Club, 13-0, while in the second game, Kanoa blanked Shirley's Football Club, 2-0.

Irish Pagarao and Sue Anne Huevos delivered the pair of goals for Kanoa, which took a while to hit the board. Pagarao ended Kanoa's silence in the 54th minute, while Huevos scored her goal in the 65th to give their team its second win in as many games. Kanoa defeated Matansa, 4-3, during the league's season opening game early this month.

Paire also notched its second straight win after clobbering Matansa in last weekend's double-header. Paire prevailed over Shirley's in its first match in the season.

In its second assignment, Paire had a walk in the park after drawing goals from six different players. Summer Manahane, Guine Borja, and Jerlyn Castillo teamed up in Paire's demolition of Matansa after firing three goals each, while Erin Frink chipped in two. Brittany Wally and Anisa Villagomez contributed two apiece.

Meanwhile, the last pair of preliminary matches will be played this Sunday with the unbeaten Paire and Kanoa colliding in the first game at 4pm and Matansa and Shirley's squaring off in the second tiff at 6pm.

The final games will determine the playoff seeding, as the No. 1 team will take on the No. 4 finisher for the second finals seat and the No. 2 and 3 squads will battle for the first finals ticket on June 9. The title match will take place on June 16 at 6pm.

Erin Frink scored in Paire Footbal Club's 13-0 demolition of Matansa Football Club during their game in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's 11 vs 11 League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Repeat winners in All Schools

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The most outstanding athletes in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships pose with their trophies and are joined in the group photo by Northern Marianas Athletics, McDonald's and PSS officials during the awards presentation at the McDonald's Middle Road yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Familiar faces led the most outstanding athletes list in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

Siblings Moshe and Savita Sikkel of Brilliant Star School were among the repeat winners of the individual awards Northern Marianas Athletics, PSS, and McDonald's gave to students that stood out in the competition held early this month at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Moshe, who won outstanding athlete honors in 2016 and 2017, got his third after reigning supreme in the U9 age group. He collected 40 points after topping the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m runs.

Savita, who was the best athlete in the U9 division in 2017, also lorded it over in the run races, as her first place finish in the 100m, 400m, and 800m, and second in the 1,500m gave her 38 points and the outstanding athlete award in the girls U11 age group.

Last year's winners Jephda Hong of Koblerville Elemen-

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'Crank' set for UFC Fight Night 153

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is now in Stockholm, Sweden and is set for his bout lightweight bout against Germany's Nick "Sergeant" Hein in UFC Fight Night 153.

Camacho just completed his training camp in California with renowned MMA coach Colin Oyama and arrived in Sweden last Tuesday, giving him a few days to put the final touches on his preparations for the June 1 duel (June 2 on Saipan).

"I am feeling amazing. It's another great training camp in the books with Team Oyama. No injuries, high spirits, and sharp game plan... I'm every excited," said Camacho, who will have Oyama at his corner when he have his first fight of the season.

Against Hein, the Marianas warrior is hoping to improve his 21-7 record and get back on track after losing his last two UFC fights.

"Fight week is like clockwork. Get the weight off and then it's go time. I am very much ready. The goal this year is to stay ready for opportunities that may present themselves," the 30-year-old said.

The duel against Hein is sort of a déjà vu for Camacho, who had his first UFC fight as a replacement when he chal-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, signs his promotional poster for his lightweight bout against Germany's Nick "Sergeant" Hein in UFC Fight Night 153 in Sweden last Tuesday.

Hawaii woman fell to ground bawling when found in forest

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaii woman said Tuesday she fell to the ground and started bawling when a rescue helicopter spotted her in a forest where she had survived for two weeks by eating plants and drinking stream water.

Amanda Eller said crews in other helicopters failed to see her earlier in her ordeal.

"I knew in the grand scheme of things, I'm on this tiny piece of rock on the top of a waterfall, and how the heck are they going to find me?" Eller said at a news conference livestreamed from Maui. "It was a miracle."

The same group of volunteers who found her on Friday were helping search another forest for a Maui man, Noah Mina, who has been missing since May 20.

Eller had set out May 8 for a 3-mile (5-kilometer) hike in Makawao Forest Reserve. She didn't take a cellphone and didn't have a compass.

The physical therapist said her heart was telling her which way to turn. But when she tried to go back the way she came, that path didn't lead to her car.

Eller said she's normally an "overpreparer" and has food, water, sunscreen and a hat with her.

"Just that day I did not," she said, conceding she should have taken a cellphone.

Her darkest moment came on her 14th day in the forest when helicopters passed over and failed to see her yet again.

"You lose hope," Eller said. "Your hope meter starts to decline a little bit. And as the sun starts to go down you think, 'OK. Another night alone, how am I going to stay warm, how am I going to stay alive?'"

Still, she said she never felt alone or fearful. She thought of her family and chose to live.

She told herself: "You can sit on that rock and you can die. You can say mercy and feel pitiful for yourself and you can play victim. Or you can start walking down that waterfall and choose life."

Eller said a prayer for Mina, who went missing on a ridge trail near Wailuku. Eller said the area was "gnarly" and scarier than the spot where she was. She called the search for her "training" for the latest effort.

"I send all of my love and all of my support to his family and friends and his search teams," she said.

Mina's father, Vincent Mina, told The Maui News that first responders found his son's flip flops about 2,500 feet (762 meters) above sea level. They located footprints but weren't sure if they were Mina's.

Vincent Mina said Chris Berquist and Javier Cantellops, the arborist and Army Ranger who led the two-week search for Eller, met with Mina's family and were taken by helicopter Sunday to the area where he was last seen.

Eller said she's eager to get back to work and take care of her physical therapy patients. She said she has some ankle wounds and her knee hurts, but expects to be off crutches in about a month.

"I'm so grateful to be alive. I wake up in the morning and I'm like, 'Oh my God, I had a warm bed that I got to sleep in. And my body got to rest and to heal. My ankles are getting stronger.' Grateful for every breath. Grateful for everything. And I hope I never lose that," Eller said.

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Timberline Pro representatives John Gockel and Alex Rodriguez train Safety 1st Systems CNMI manager Emi Agulto and personnel on Timberline shoe product lines and sales points. Safety 1st Systems CNMI is the exclusive distributor for the Timberline Pro safety shoe product line, and carries also KEEN, Red Wing and other top brand safety footwear. Watch soon for new arrivals of Timberline and other suppliers in more economical lines.

Safety 1st Systems CNMI personnel receive training on newly installed hydrostatic testing system equipment. Conducting the training is Dave Sellers, Safety 1st Guam's manager. Larry Mettao receives training, while fire systems consultant Eric Macduff oversees. Safety 1st Systems CNMI is Saipan's only private full service fire safety store with the newest Getz equipment available.

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